

NEWS

in brief

Purim closure on Palestinian areas lifted

Defense Minister Moshe Arens ordered the closure imposed on Judea, Samaria, and Gaza during Purim to be lifted at midnight last night. The IDF Spokesman said Arens's decision was based on consultations with military and security authorities. The closure which has been in effect since Saturday night was enforced on the recommendation of security authorities, which warned of plans by terrorists to carry out attacks during the holiday. Soldiers, police, and border policemen beefed up their presence during Purim, especially in shopping malls, bus stations, and other densely populated areas. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Israeli-Turkish ministry teams to meet

A bilateral consultation forum of Turkish and Israeli Foreign Ministry teams is to meet in Ankara today for the first time. The Israeli team will be headed by Director-General Eytan Bentsur. The forum is to meet every six months alternately in Ankara and Jerusalem to discuss economics, trade, science, academic exchanges, energy, and other subjects. Such forums are routine between Israel and many other countries. *Itim*

One killed, eight injured in head-on crash

Sami Abu-Zuluf, 57, from Daliat al-Carmel, was killed yesterday and eight others were injured – one critically, four seriously – when two cars collided head-on near the Beit Oren junction south of Haifa, after one suddenly swerved from its lane. A third car then crashed into the other two. Ambulances rushed the injured to several Haifa hospitals. *Itim*

Benizri disputes depiction of Moses' wife as black

The depiction of Moses' wife as black in *The Prince of Egypt* is a "distortion," Shas MK Shlomo Benizri said in an interview on Channel 2 yesterday. Relying on advice from Jewish scholars, the DreamWorks animated feature depicts Tziporah as black, because of a biblical reference to "Moses' wife from Kush" – an African kingdom.

According to rabbinical interpretations, Benizri said, "a Kush woman" actually means "beautiful in appearance." Rabbinical writings, however, have identified Kush as corresponding to modern day Ethiopia. *AP*

Palestinian flags drawn next to judge's home

Drawings of Palestinian flags were found yesterday along the fence of the home belonging to Beersheba District Court Judge Yadin Timor in Beersheba's Omer suburb. Neighborhood residents discovered two drawings of flags just before evening and notified police. *Itim*

Youths injured by Purim pyrotechnics

Two 11-year-old boys from the Bar Yochai settlement near Safed were injured by toy caps yesterday evening. One boy suffered eye injuries, and the other burns to his face. Both required medical attention. In a separate incident, two youths from Katzrin were lightly injured while playing with a firecracker. They claimed they did know it was a dangerous explosive. *Itim*

Police seize Palestinian weapons

In a raid on the homes of two Palestinian brothers living in the Fawwar camp yesterday evening, police discovered four guns, a home made rifle, six magazines suited for different weapons, and containers of gun powder.

Judea and Samaria police spokesman Rafi Yafeh said an initial investigation indicated the weapons were for criminal purposes and not security-related offenses.

Yafeh said the two, in their thirties, told police they were laborers. They will remain in custody at the Hebron police station until next week, when they are to be remanded. In the territories police can detain suspects for up to eight days before requesting remand, he said. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Palestinians demonstrate in support of Ocalan

Several dozen Palestinians, led by Palestinian legislator Hatem Abdel Qader, demonstrated yesterday outside the Turkish Consulate in eastern Jerusalem, in support of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan. *AP*

Monitoring group calls on Lebanon to curb Katyusha attacks

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

The monitoring group overseeing the Grapes of Wrath ceasefire understandings concluded their meeting in Nakoura yesterday with a call on Lebanon to curb Katyusha rocket attacks on northern Israel.

The five-nation committee also accepted Israel's complaint that Hizbullah had fired over 70 mortar rounds from the village of Majdel Slim at IDF targets during the course of three days. IDF

sources said they could not respond to these attacks for fear of violating the understandings. Lebanon said it was taking the appropriate measures to stop Hizbullah from using the village to strike at the IDF.

The monitoring group also acknowledged in its seven-hour meeting that an "armed group" in Lebanon had fired the two Katyusha rockets on Margalit on Sunday. The Lebanese government has denied that rockets were fired from Lebanon and

Hizbullah has denied responsibility. Security sources in Lebanon said that for \$300 one can order a Katyusha rocket attack on Israel.

The IDF Spokesman said Lebanon had accepted responsibility for the violations, but an official statement from the monitoring group made no mention of this. The monitoring group called on Lebanon to take steps to prevent further rocket attacks.

The monitoring group said all sides expressed their commitment to the April 1996 understandings,

this despite statements by Defense Minister Moshe Arens to *The Jerusalem Post* that Israel was reappraising the efficacy of the agreement.

The monitoring group also called on Israel, Syria, and Lebanon to avoid provocative actions "entailing violence against civilians." Under the terms of the US-brokered understandings, Israel and Lebanese guerrillas are to refrain from attacking civilians and from using civilian areas to attack military

targets. Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss welcomed the monitoring committee's call for defusing tension in south Lebanon and accused Israel of violating the understandings.

"Lebanon has never been the cause of tension... The full elimination of tension lies in Israel's unconditional withdrawal [from south Lebanon] to the internationally-recognized borders," Hoss was quoted as saying by Associated Press.



Send in the clowns

President Ezer Weizman welcomes clown Rami Salami and a group of children from the North to Beit Hanassi yesterday. Weizman invited the children to visit Jerusalem on Purim following the recent Katyusha attacks. (Ariel Jerolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

Embassy guard who accidentally killed colleague in Jordan may face charges

A security guard commander who accidentally shot and killed Lt. (res.) Sorek Geffen, one of his colleagues at the Israeli Embassy in Amman, should not have had a loaded gun, an official said yesterday.

The shooting took place during a drill last Wednesday on the embassy grounds. The official, unidentified, said the guards and their commander – whose name has

not been released – should not have been carrying loaded weapons. Geffen, 23, was brought to Israel in critical condition with a single bullet wound to the chest and died of his wounds Tuesday.

The official did not rule out the possibility of a criminal inquiry into the incident. A professional team went to Jordan to investigate, and the commander was questioned, he said.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, who was being questioned by police about fraud allegations in Petah Tikva, did not attend Geffen's funeral in Haifa military cemetery yesterday, but transmitted a message via ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur to his family that Sorek died in the line of duty.

Bentsur, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, Ambassador to Jordan Oded Erni, General

Security Service officers, police, teachers, and IDF officers attended the funeral.

Mourners eulogized Geffen as a brilliant student and loyal comrade on his first post-army mission as a security guard. "As we stand by his grave we feel terrible pain and a difficult feeling of waste," said his employer, the head of the GSS institutional security wing. (News agencies)

Shaath: Egypt, Jordan asked PA to postpone statehood

By BEN LYNFIELD

Egypt and Jordan have asked the Palestinian Authority to delay a declaration of statehood by several months beyond May 4, said Nabil Shaath, PA Minister of Planning and International Cooperation.

The two countries "cite tactical reasons, that May 4 is a date that no longer serves the interest of the Palestinians and a delay of a few months does," Shaath was quoted by the Associated Press as saying.

He was apparently referring to the May 17 Israeli elections. The US, the European Union, Egypt, Jordan and the Labor Party are all reportedly concerned that a declaration of statehood on May 4 will boost Likud in the polling.

May 4 is the date that interim self-rule arrangements set out in the 1994 Israeli-Palestinian agreement signed in Cairo are due to expire.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat trumpeted May 4 last fall as the date when independence would be declared.

But he has become ambiguous about it in recent months, apparently due to foreign persuasion and the elections.

Several PA ministers have openly expressed interest in striking a deal with the US and other signatories of the peace deals in which the PA would be compensated in exchange for delaying the declaration.

Faisal Hussein, the PA minister for Jerusalem, has said this might include pressure on Israel for a settlement freeze. But Shaath seems to have in mind guarantees of future recognition. "Any delay will have to come with guarantees," he said, according to AP.

Palestinian Authority Secretary-General Tayeb Abdel-Rahim said Arafat would ask Clinton for recognition of Palestinian self-determination and right to a state during their meeting scheduled for March 23 at the White House.

The US has traditionally opposed these nationalist Palestinian aspirations, but Clinton used unprecedentedly sympathetic language when he visited the PA areas in December. "Americans have come to appreciate the strength of your identity and the depth of your aspirations and we have learned to appreciate your grievances as well," he told Palestinian leaders.

Clinton urged Arafat not to declare unilaterally a Palestinian state during their last meeting on February 4, US officials said at the time.

AP adds: Police are training snipers and riot squads to prepare for possible Palestinian unrest following a unilateral Palestinian declaration of statehood in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, *Haaretz* said yesterday.

"Police officials did not confirm or deny that such preparations were being made under the code name 'Operation Magic Melody.' Police spokesman Uri Sanduri said the subject was sensitive and that police were ready for 'all kinds of situations.'"

Haaretz said the Israeli police plan describes several scenarios in the wake of a declaration of independence. One possibility is that Palestinian police will open fire on Israelis from the borders, another that riots will break out in Arab areas under Israeli control.

Police have begun training snipers who would guard Israel's borders against possible infiltration, *Haaretz* said, adding that all Border Police units were required to undergo a two-day training session on dispersing crowds, shooting and combat in open territory.

PULLOUT

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It is unlikely that a sufficient number of MKs could now be found to support the move, although it is probable that after the elections there will again be attempts to form a unity government led by the winning candidate.

Shas leader Aryeh Deri, who tried to prevent the vote on the early elections bill with a last-minute call in the Knesset plenum for a unity government, continued to stand behind the suggestion yesterday.

"I felt and continue to feel that the tasks facing Israel in the coming 18 months will unfortunately be very hard for any government: Lebanon, Syria, the Palestinians, the economy, unemployment, religious-secular relations. I asked what will we gain by elections. Even after elections there will be no option but to have a broad government. No one will be able to create a narrow government and anyway this shouldn't be done," he said on Israel Radio.

Deri said there are no major ideological differences between the three larger parties and the only

thing preventing a national unity government from being formed now is the politicians' fear of losing their positions or because of personal feelings.

But MK Uzi Baram (Labor) described the proposal as "not serious" and a "media gimmick." He said the Lebanese question is complicated and none of the party leaders believes a withdrawal could take place within three months. "So let's go to elections and the results will be, it seems, that we will then form a government which can pull out of Lebanon," Baram said.

Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) rejected Baram's claim and said Sharon had been making the same suggestion for a long time.

Finance Minister Meir Sheetrit said the idea is no longer practical, because Labor has rejected it. He, however, agreed with Sharon that only a broad-based government will be able to deal with national problems and said the suggestion should be reexamined after the elections.

He said Israel should be careful not to react to the Lebanese situation because of pressure.

Nehama Ronen, head of the Center Party's response team, said Sharon's proposal is an expression of the Likud's fear that Yitzhak Mordechai will win the elections. She said she has no doubt that before the elections the Likud will continue to raise other "magic solutions." Geshet leader David Levy said the proposal is worth considering only if it stems from an intention to implement a serious plan about Lebanon.

Meretz MK Ran Cohen said the Lebanon problem demands "a speedy change of government in favor of a government that aims for peace and is also loyal to Israel's security goals. The Lebanon punishment comes as a result of the absolute cancellation of the negotiations with Syria by Netanyahu."

Netanyahu, in an Israel Radio interview, criticized Barak for his pledge this week to withdraw the IDF from Lebanon within a year if he's elected prime minister.

Netanyahu said Barak did not have a plan but only "an election gimmick... I know this, because he had four years in which to propose it and he only got us more caught up [in Lebanon]," said Netanyahu.

Science Minister Silvan Shalom said he supports the idea of a national unity government, but it is not feasible at the moment because Labor has rejected it. "It is important to establish a national unity government after the elections, but the question of whether joint government basic guidelines can be reached needs to be examined," Shalom said.

Nina Gilbert contributed to this report.

MOSSAD

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Meanwhile, in her book due out this week, Lewinsky assails independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr's office for "dubious methods."

She also raises new questions about the origins of his investigation of the affair and the following cover-up.

Lewinsky asserts in Monica's Story, a book by Princess Diana biographer Andrew Morton, that the independent counsel's investigators had obtained a copy of her false affidavit denying an affair with Clinton before the document had been filed with a court.

Thus, she raises the prospect that Starr had been secretly coordinating with Paula Jones's lawyers to catch the president in wrongdoing.

"Understandably, Starr's tactics have been a matter for grave public concern," her book says.

"The whole exchange about immunity was a waste of time except insofar as it exposed the dubious methods employed by Starr's investigators."

The Associated Press obtained excerpts from the book from a source outside the publishing world.

In the book, Lewinsky recounts in unflattering terms her first experience with Starr's prosecutors the day they confronted her at a hotel, urged her to cooperate with the investigation of Clinton and threatened to prosecute her if

she didn't.

Lewinsky says that encounter was so disturbing that she considered hurling herself from the 10th floor window and killing herself.

She asserts that Starr prosecutor Michael Emmick called her attorney, William Ginsburg, during one exchange that day in January 1998 and "offered to fax her new attorney a copy of her false affidavit."

"The two FBI agents, however, pulled him roughly away from the phone."

"They realized Ginsburg would instantly understand that Starr's office had seen a copy before it had been filed, which meant in all probability it had come from Paula Jones's lawyers," Morton wrote based on his interviews with Lewinsky.

Though Lewinsky's affidavit had not been filed in court, her lawyer had sent it to Jones's lawyers earlier that day, Lewinsky asserts.

The US Justice Department is investigating whether Starr improperly detained Lewinsky and failed to disclose possible contacts with Jones's lawyer to the department before it gave Starr permission to investigate the matter.

The book and a separate interview to be aired by ABC television early this morning local time, gave Lewinsky the first opportunity to tell her story outside of a federal grand jury room or the impeachment trial, where she testified by videotape.

ABC aired the excerpt – the last

est snippet from the much ballyhooed interview with Barbara Walters to be revealed – ahead of its own broadcast of the full interview.

A separate interview conducted by the BBC will be broadcast tonight on Channel 1.

Lewinsky gave a small smile and then chewed her lower lip as she watched a videotape of Clinton's address to the nation on August 17, after his testimony to a grand jury in which he admitted the affair.

He apologized then to the American people, but not to Lewinsky.

Asked whether Clinton gave the impression that she was "serving" him sexually, Lewinsky replied softly, "That was the impression he gave."

"I felt dirty and I felt used and I was disappointed," Lewinsky said.

The full interview was to be aired last night, eastern daylight time, on ABC.

Asked by Walters whether Clinton really cared for her, Lewinsky said, "Some days I think yes and some days I think no."

Walters also asked Lewinsky whether she believed Clinton felt remorseful, to which she replied, "I think he's sorry he got caught."

Lewinsky added, however, that "when I think of the person I thought Bill Clinton was, he had genuine remorse."

News agencies contributed to this report.



I mourn the passing of

Dr. ALEXANDER RAFAELI

fighter, statesman and industrialist

Moshe Arens
Minister of Defense

ARROW

Continued from Page 1

"Ideally, the appropriation of \$40-\$42 million in FY 1999, FY 2000 and FY 2001 would allow Israel to receive funding to purchase the third battery," the letter stated.

"Our game plan is to continue pressuring the Defense Department

to find some money... to put this on track," a Senate source said.

"We have an opportunity, when there's \$1 billion that is unobligated, which doesn't happen a lot around here. We don't want to let that opportunity slip by."

If this year's installment of the Arrow third-battery funding ultimately comes from the Wye package, then it could get caught up in

delays in transmitting the Wye package to both Israel and the Palestinians because they have not fulfilled their commitments.

A Pentagon official said the matter is sure to be discussed when Cohen meets with Arens. "We certainly understand that the Israelis want a third battery," he said. "The issue... is [one] of funding and... it's simply not resolved yet."

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Begin decries calls for 'unilateral escape' from Lebanon

By NINA GILBERT

Herut Party leader and prime ministerial candidate Ze'ev (Benny) Begin attacked all the other candidates for prime minister yesterday for expressing a willingness "for a unilateral escape from Lebanon."

Begin, who was speaking at the inauguration of his campaign headquarters in Tel Aviv, said: "We can look for the easy answers... We can leave Lebanon within two weeks, a year is not needed. The Golan Heights can also be abandoned within three weeks. 'Peace now.' But what later? We all know."

"We should ask all of them why they don't do it now. The answer, of course, is that there is no soap solution," he said.

However, Begin did not offer any solutions of his own to the problem.

Herut No. 2 MK Michael Kleiner also took part in the ceremony, as did former Likud MK David Re'em, who has decided to leave politics but endorse Begin. Herut is in advanced negotiations on forming a joint list with Tekuma and Moledet.

In his criticism, Begin singled out Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, saying he has decided to propose withdrawing from Lebanon based on public opinion polls.

"This is dangerous. Instead of policy being set by leaders and policy-makers... it was set by an ad agency in a cynical manner out of media considerations after a week in which there were many victims," Begin said.

Barak's promise to withdraw in a year "has no basis in truth," he said, adding that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai both have basically accepted his idea. All of the "leaders are sending their weariness back to the people," which indeed is showing signs of "exhaustion and impatience," Begin said.

Begin also attacked Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon's proposal for a national "emergency govern-



Herut Party leader Ze'ev (Benny) Begin serves cake yesterday at a ceremony marking the inauguration of his campaign headquarters in Tel Aviv. Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir (right), considered the mentor of the far Right, and Herut No. 2 MK Michael Kleiner look on.

ment" to deal with the issues of Lebanon and the Palestinians. "It used to be that a wide front was established in order to stand firm. Now it is being suggested as a way to escape from national interests," Former Likud prime minister

Yitzhak Shamir, who has become the mentor for the far Right, took part in the ceremony. The 84-year-old Shamir, who was buoyed by the gathering, said he "has always been in Herut. I don't even remember when I joined."

Shamir has spearheaded efforts among the far-Right parties, including Tekuma and Moledet, to move toward unity. "I want to see all of the national parties unite," he said. Asked if this includes the Likud, Shamir said: "I don't know."

The Likud must define itself."

In Shamir's blessing for the headquarters, he said Begin's party would "stand firm to keep the Greater Land of Israel," which will serve as a basis for the ingathering of the exiles.

Before the invasion of the spin doctors

Those politicians who came into their own before the invasion of American media spin doctors actually had pet causes. Incredible as it may sound, they considered more than polls and catchy sound bites.

Like him or not, Shimon Peres, came from that era. No Washington-based campaign expert would have sanctioned Peres's talk of a new Middle East. It probably would have been mixed as an annoying, futuristic flight of fancy. Yet Peres tenaciously continues to harp on his theme, regardless of the ridicule it has earned him.

Like him, Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon also belongs to a generation which pursued convictions. Almost from the day Sharon first trod the political stage, he took to sounding clarion calls for what he perceived as issues of national responsibility.

National unity was always one of them. His record on that issue goes as far back as the Seventies. His one outstanding success was in 1984. The national unity coalition set up after the election of that year came about to a large extent because of Sharon's tireless efforts.

He has since lost no chance to recommend national unity as a panacea to help a beleaguered nation overcome crucial, often existential problems, without dragging them into the mire of partisan conflicts, and thereby escalating contention and rendering the problems more insoluble than ever.

Most often, when Sharon makes these by now familiar calls, he gets scant attention. The fact that we are now in the midst of a no-holds-barred campaign makes for the exception. This is all the more so, because Sharon went so far as

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By SARAH HONIG

to suggest that the elections be postponed. This earned his oft-repeated refrain a dramatic air and dramatic front page headlines - but it could not make it new.

Only a few months ago Sharon hobnobbed with Peres - first covertly and then overtly - to discuss national unity. Both were game to try the idea yet again. Then as now, no one - least of all Peres - could carry Labor into such a deal. Then as now, that made it a non-starter.

This is why Sharon never took his latest proposal to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, nor to any other senior Likud member. This was no operative political move, no cynical ploy to help Netanyahu, and no expression of non-confidence in him. It was yet another declaration of what is desirable in these hard times, rather than what is feasible.

Sharon was not moved to restate his ideal just because Labor Party leader Ehud Barak stole a march on all his rivals by promising to bring the boys home in a year. The Lebanon issue was not born this week and neither was Sharon's popular prescription for national unity.

Lebanon generated political aftershocks almost since the Peace for Galilee campaign was launched. Few today might care to recall the demonstrators camped outside the prime minister's residence with huge billboards showing the numbers of the fallen, shouting in the dead of night that Menachem Begin is a murderer

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By SARAH HONIG

and hoisting placards likening him to Hitler, and depicting him with vampire teeth dripping blood. Lebanon was also an issue in 1996, when, during the elections campaign, Peres launched the Grapes of Wrath blitz, only to see the grapes sour in no time. Some maintain that, although the Netanyahu-led opposition was careful to back the Lebanon offensive to the hilt, the Grapes of Wrath were what eventually tipped the scales against Peres. The theory is that the operation kept angry Arabs from voting for Peres.

Will the situation in Lebanon be as pivotal to this campaign? The one great difference is that a much-assailed prime minister is in power. This leads more and more groups to feel free to go on the warpath against what others claim to be the national interest. Nothing of the sort could be contemplated under Yitzhak Rabin or Peres, though the Lebanese quicksand was no less deep then.

It was against this background that Barak made his campaign promise on Lebanon. This one too may end up where all other campaign promises on complex issues end up. In the meantime, though, Barak made some political capital. How much? Hard to say. But it's a safe bet that he most impressed those who were going to vote for him anyway.

His deadline for withdrawal was repudiated as ill-judged by those who were not going to vote for him in any case. It is next to impossible now to assess how the waverers and undecideds will react. It is no less impossible to conclude now that Barak has indeed made Lebanon the issue of this campaign. But he certainly made it the issue of this week.

NRP effort to dissuade Porat, Hendel 'a lost cause'

By NINA GILBERT and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

National Religious Party leaders Yitzhak Levy and Shaul Yahalom met settlement leaders late last night, in an apparent last-ditch effort to prevent MKs Zvi Hendel and Hanan Porat from leaving the NRP Knesset faction today.

Hendel and Porat are scheduled today to obtain recognition by the Knesset House Committee as a separate two-man faction called Emunim.

After the session, the two may convene a news conference to announce their political future. Hendel and Porat are expected to use their Emunim faction as a basis for negotiations to join either Herut or Tekuma, with a return to the NRP on a joint list a more remote possibility.

A source close to Porat termed the effort by Levy and Yahalom to influence the two to change their mind a "lost cause."

The meeting with Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza director-general Aharon Domb and chairman Pinhas Wallerstein, he said, was "designed to show that the NRP leaders are meeting with settlers." He said Levy had initiated the meeting, while a Levy aide insisted that Domb had invited himself.

Hendel is a resident of Moshav Ganei Tal in the Gaza Strip's Gush Katif, while Porat lives in Gush Etzion. Porat has already announced that he will leave the NRP after being demoted to the No. 11 slot. Hendel won the seventh slot in last week's party elections, and said he would only announce his final decision today.

Before the scheduled meeting, Levy said on Channel 1 he had no plans to try and convince the two to return, adding their departure will not affect the party.

"I am angry at him (Porat) I think he could have worked harder in the central committee and without a doubt if he had been elected to a higher position I am sure he would be sitting here by my side."

Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said that although Domb and Wallerstein realized their chances were slim they decided to go ahead anyway and make one last attempt to convince Levy to reach some kind of compromise.

"It may not be possible as after all Levy has to answer his own colleagues and party members. There are those that say Porat and Hendel's departure won't affect the NRP and there are those who have said they no longer feel the NRP represents their interests," she said.

Domb and Wallerstein denied rumors that they were considering filing in the NRP slots vacated by Porat and Hendel. Domb informed reporters that he had no plans to leave his present council position.

Domb, who has been mediating among the far Right candidates to form a joint list, came to Herut leader Ze'ev (Benny) Begin's Tel Aviv headquarters yesterday for a working meeting. He presented a survey conducted by the council which found that if Porat and Hendel join the far Right bloc, it can obtain nine to 10 seats in the Knesset. NRP moderates believe the party will gain votes from the moderate religious public by shedding its militant settler image.

NEWS

in brief

Barak meets with Arab MKs

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak held meetings yesterday at his home with Arab Knesset members in an effort to secure their promise of public support in the upcoming elections. The MKs told Barak that while they had turned down an invitation to hold similar talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, they were not ruling out the possibility of supporting the Center Party.

Center Party member Nissim Zivili said that he believed the party had much to offer the Arab community, and hinted that Barak was wrong to believe the Arab vote was sewn up.

"Why doesn't Barak try to explain to them (the Arab community) what he meant when he said 'Ofra and Beil El forever...' or why he goes to plant trees in Alpe Menashe and not in their villages?" asked Zivili. *Danna Harman*

Center Party to campaign up close

The Center Party's campaign strategy will rely heavily on site visits and rallies and less on press and television advertisements. Dan Meridor said yesterday. "We, who have a limited budget will be going door-to-door, person-to-person and asking for their support and trust," he said at a press conference at the party headquarters yesterday. Meridor said that some 85,000 people have already asked to join the party, and that more than 60 party branches have been opened throughout the country. Unlike other parties, there are no dues, but joining members are asked to donate funds in order to help with the campaign financing. According to election rules, a person can donate up to NIS 1,700 a party. Meanwhile, the Center Party's Knesset list has yet to be finalized. Meridor said that setting up a clear party platform was more of a priority at this stage. He admitted that the process of choosing the list would not be easy. "The nature of things is that we have more people wanting so-called realistic positions than we have those positions. In addition we are a party starting from scratch, we don't have organized institutions or a central party that would be able to choose through primaries therefore the four of us have a hard task ahead of us," he said. *Danna Harman*

Bat Yam politician opts out of Labor

Shlomo Lahiani, the little known Bat Yam politician who was capitulated into the headlines when Labor Party leader Ehud Barak announced his interest in bringing him into the One Israel list despite party opposition has opted out. Lahiani, who says he was first offered the 11th spot and then asked to make do with the 32nd, said yesterday that "One Israel is obviously not a framework within which I feel I can work." *Danna Harman*

Poraz bemoans reproductive 'ethos'

Shinui leader Avraham Poraz yesterday said that "once and for all, the ethos that families are 'blessed' with [many] children should be abandoned". Poraz was speaking in a televised discussion of population expansion in Israel and abroad.

"If we all acted like the hareidim and had eight or nine children," Poraz stated, "Israel would now be a Third World nation." Poraz blamed the government for encouraging high hareidim birthrates with its welfare funding, which also discourages hareidim from becoming financially self-sufficient. "There are 80,000 healthy hareidim men who do not work... If we cut back their welfare benefits, they'll have to work," Poraz said. He cited lower birthrates among hareidim communities abroad which, he claimed, were a direct result of less generous government welfare programs there. *Irit*

Likud's Salmovitz may support Begin

Is Likud Knesset candidate Esther Salmovitz supporting the candidacy of Herut prime ministerial candidate Ze'ev (Benny) Begin?

Salmovitz attended the inauguration of Begin's headquarters yesterday. Asked if she had changed her allegiance, she insisted that she was only there "as a guest." However, she took a few Begin bumper stickers and snatched them quickly in her bag. She also spent several hours in the headquarters after the ceremony. Salmovitz's appeal to the Likud tribunal to put her in a higher slot than No. 41 was rejected. She noted that she sees herself in the rightist camp of the Likud. Salmovitz was elected as a Tsomer MK in 1992, but then left the party to form the Y'ud faction. She then refused to join its two other members in the Rabin government. *Nina Gilbert*

Opposition criticizes PM's delay of debate

Opposition MKs strongly criticized the decision to postpone today's scheduled meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Labor issued a statement saying, "Netanyahu, who has failed to find a solution to the Lebanon question, is scared of coming to the committee because he cannot cope with the miserable reality. The cancellation of the meeting shows Netanyahu's true order of priorities - to go only to those places where he does not have to cope with the country's complex problems." The prime minister's media advisor, Aviv Bushinsky, said the decision on the postponement was taken in view of the visit by committee head Uzi Landau to the US as a member of the joint committee with Congress on combating the missile threat. Bushinsky said Landau had asked for a 10-day delay in holding the meeting. *Liat Collins*



The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

Spokesperson's Office

The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption hereby notifies the public of:

Planned change in the name of the Ministry

In recent years, with the immigration of approximately a million new immigrants, closer collaboration has been established between the Ministry and new immigrants. This collaboration has enabled the integration of new immigrants and immigrant organizations in both planning and decision making.

As a result, the goals of the Ministry have changed. We have increased possibilities for assistance for new immigrants in the fields of housing, employment and cultural activities, both on a national and local level. The period for which rights are available to new immigrants has been extended, and now people who have immigrated to Israel in the last decade are eligible for employment, housing and ulpan rights.

In light of the above, the time has come for the name of the Ministry to reflect the changes in the character of absorption, the increased awareness, the goals of the Ministry and its day-to-day activities in the field.

As with all other decisions, we are inviting all new immigrants to participate in choosing a new name for the Ministry.

From Thursday, March 4 at 7 a.m. until Tuesday, March 9 at 8 p.m., you will be able to call **03-638-8966**

and choose a name from the following list:

The Ministry of Economic and Social Integration of Immigrants
The Ministry of Immigrant Integration
The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption and Integration
The Ministry of Immigrant Integration and Absorption
The original name - The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption
 Alternative name:

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It is also possible to submit suggestions to the following address: **dover@moia.gov.il**

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Germany: Firms, not gov't, must indemnify slave laborers

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The German government is not prepared to spend public funds at this time to compensate Nazi-era slave laborers, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said yesterday in New York.

"It would not be very wise to do it now," he said.

Instead, it was up to culpable German companies to confront their moral and historical responsibilities, Fischer said at a meeting of the New York Jewish

Community Relations Council only weeks after he visited Israel.

"Deutsche Bank, Siemens, VW know they have to confront this question," said Fischer.

He added that if the government announced that public funds would be available for compensation, the companies would say: "We are taxpayers. You do it."

German banks and enterprises, with a prod from the government of Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, last month announced a "German Remembrance Fund"

to provide compensation to Jewish and other former forced laborers.

The fund, whose resources have not yet been identified, will be launched September 1, the 60th anniversary of the invasion of Poland.

The fund has the support of the US State Department and the World Jewish Congress, but not of the class-action lawyers who have filed suits against German banks and industrial companies, seeking compensation for forced labor and for confiscated Jewish

property.

Unlike the situation with Switzerland, where Holocaust-era compensation became the primary drag in Swiss-US relations, the issue has had no impact on German-American relations, Fischer said.

Last month, the German government sought from the US State Department a form of legal protection that would shield German companies from the lawsuits.

However, the department was said to have rejected that plea.



New MDA chief

President Ezer Weizman hands a certificate of appointment to the new head of Magen David Adom, former Tiberias mayor Yosef Peretz, as Health Minister Yehoshua Matza congratulates him at the Beit Hanassi ceremony yesterday.

(Avi Hayoun)

Teachers: Salaries eroded 15% over past three years

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

"We are determined to erase once and for all the shame whereby educators in Israel with a BA and three years' experience earn just NIS 3,500 gross. We plan to deal with this matter from the bottom, and see to it that it is equal to similar public sector employees," Histadrut Teachers Union chief Avraham Ben-Shabbat said during Tuesday's negotiations with the Treasury.

The teachers' economic adviser, Michael Zuckerman, told the Treasury officials that teachers' base salaries have been eroded by 15 percent between March 1996 and March 1999.

Ben-Shabbat also revealed at the meeting that the Education Ministry cut 80,000 classroom hours in the past three years, and demanded their immediate return. The teachers also asked that special attention be paid to special education, and are seeking a reduction in class size.

A spokesman for the teachers said they would not apologize for raising their demands at a time when the country is preparing for elections, and added that the union plans to hold politicians who claim they will make education a top priority to their word.

Absorption Ministry searching for new name

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein is looking for a new name for the ministry.

Depending on the results of a call-in poll, he may soon be minister of social and economic integration, minister of immigrant integration, minister of absorption and integration of immigrants, or minister of integration and absorption of immigrants.

While the difference between these names might seem like semantics to some, and the decision to change them now might appear as an election gimmick to others, Edelstein and ministry Director-General Shlomit Canaan were quite serious yesterday when they explained the decision.

The ministry's role and outlook has changed significantly since it



Minister Yuli Edelstein

(Dan Casandryan/Israel Sun)

was created in 1969, they explained. It no longer tries to "absorb" immigrants into Israel, but to help them build lives here, Edelstein explained.

The ministry helps new and veteran immigrants in a variety of areas, many of which do not fall under the name it now bears.

For example, the ministry helps immigrants obtain housing, employment, and academic degrees, in addition to helping them adjust to life here, Edelstein said.

Another problem with the current name, he said, is that the Russian word for absorption brings to mind thoughts of a science experiment rather than social affairs.

"It really sounds like a lesson in organic chemistry," Edelstein said.

Callers can cast their vote from this morning until 8 p.m. next Tuesday by dialing (03) 638-8966.

Tape recordings in Hebrew, English, Russian and Amharic explain the options.



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International Conference in Commemoration of the 77th Birthday of Yitzhak Rabin Wars, Revolutions and Generational Identity

The conference will take place on March 7-8, 1999 at the Ettinger Hall, Gilman Building, Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv

Sunday, March 7, 1999

- 9:00 - 11:00 **The Impact of World War I**
Chair: Marcelo Dascal, Tel Aviv University
The Generation of World War and the Construction of a New German Identity, Shulamit Wolkov, Tel Aviv University
The English Post World War I Generation and its Impact on British Politics, Jay Winter, Pembroke College - Cambridge
Respondent: Joseph Mali, Tel Aviv University
- 11:00 - 11:30 Break
- 11:30 - 13:30 **In the Wake of World War II**
Chair: Dan Diner, Tel Aviv University
Germans after 1945: East and West, Jeffrey Herf, Ohio University
The generation of the "Silk Revolution" - Europe 1989, Adam Michalik, Gazeta Wyborcza Poland
Respondent: Steven Ashbeim, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 13:30 - 15:00 Lunch Break
- 15:00 - 17:00 **Intellectual Revolutions**
Chair: Meir Sternberg, Tel Aviv University
The World War I Generation and the Vietnam Generation, Paul Berman, Author and Critic
1968 vis-a-vis 1989: The Missing Generation, Mark Lilla, New York University
Respondent: Adi Ophir, Tel Aviv University
- 17:00 - 17:30 Break
- 17:30 - 19:30 **Revolutions in the Arab World**
Chair: Asher Susser, Tel Aviv University
"Jil A-Thawra" in the Arab World
"Jil A-Thawra" in Egypt, Shimon Shamir, Tel Aviv University
Respondent: Gabriel Ben Dor, Haifa University

Monday, March 8, 1999

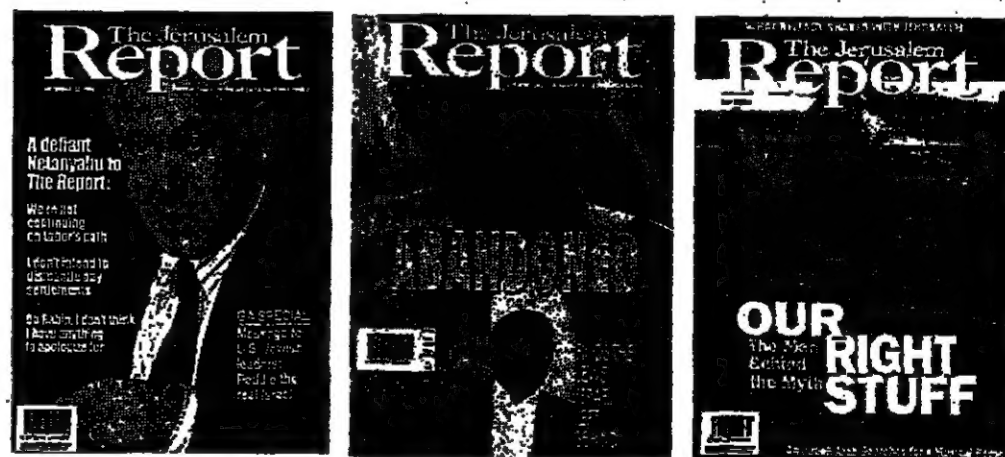
- 09:00 - 11:00 **Generational Changes among Palestinians**
Chair: Elie Rekhess, Tel Aviv University
The Palestinians - The Nakhsa Generation and the Armed Struggle Generation, Matti Steinberg, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The Israeli Arabs: Generational Changes, Sammy Samocha, Haifa University
Respondent: Aziz Haider, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 11:00 - 11:30 Break
- 11:30 - 13:30 **The First Israelis**
Chair: Hannah Naveh, Tel Aviv University
The Literary 1948 Generation: a New Assessment, Dan Miron, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The State Generation - a Political or a Cultural Definition?, Menahem Brinker, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Respondent: Nurith Gertz, The Open University of Israel
- 13:30 - 15:00 Lunch Break
- 15:00 - 17:00 **Immigrants and Sons**
Chair: Charles Liebman, Bar Ilan University
Generational Changes in the Discourse about "Oriental Jews" in Israel, Yehouda Shenav, Tel Aviv University
The Holocaust Survivors and their Children, Yolanda Gampel, Tel Aviv University
Respondent: Adriana Kemp, Ben Gurion University of the Negev
- 17:00 - 17:30 Break
- 17:30 - 19:30 **Changes in the Religions Sector**
Chair: Dan Michman, Bar Ilan University
Did the Six Day War cause a Generational Change in Religious Zionism?, Aviezer Ravitzki, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Inter Generational Relations among Haredi Jews, Menachem Friedman, Bar Ilan University
Respondent: Benjamin Brown, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and "Beit Moresha"
- 19:30 - 20:00 Break
- 20:00 - 22:00 **Symposium: The Rabin Children as a Metaphor: A new Generational Identity?**
Chair: Yuli Tamir, Tel Aviv University

Panelists:
Avraham Gnesser, Ofra
Daniel Gutwein, Haifa University
Irit Keynan, The Yitzhak Rabin Center for Israel Studies
Tamar Rapoport, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Zeev Tsachor, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

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First secular burials take place today

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Just three years after the Knesset passed a law affirming that Israelis have a right to be buried in a non-Orthodox cemetery, the first burials in a cemetery set up as a result of the law are to take place today.

The funerals of Ya'acov Ravreai, the former academic secretary of Tel Aviv University, and his wife, Hana, are to take place at a new cemetery acquired by the Beersheba branch of Menucha Nehona, an organization set up to provide for alternative burials.

The two both died about a year-and-a-half ago, within two weeks of each other. They both donated their bodies to science and specified that they wanted secular funeral ceremonies.

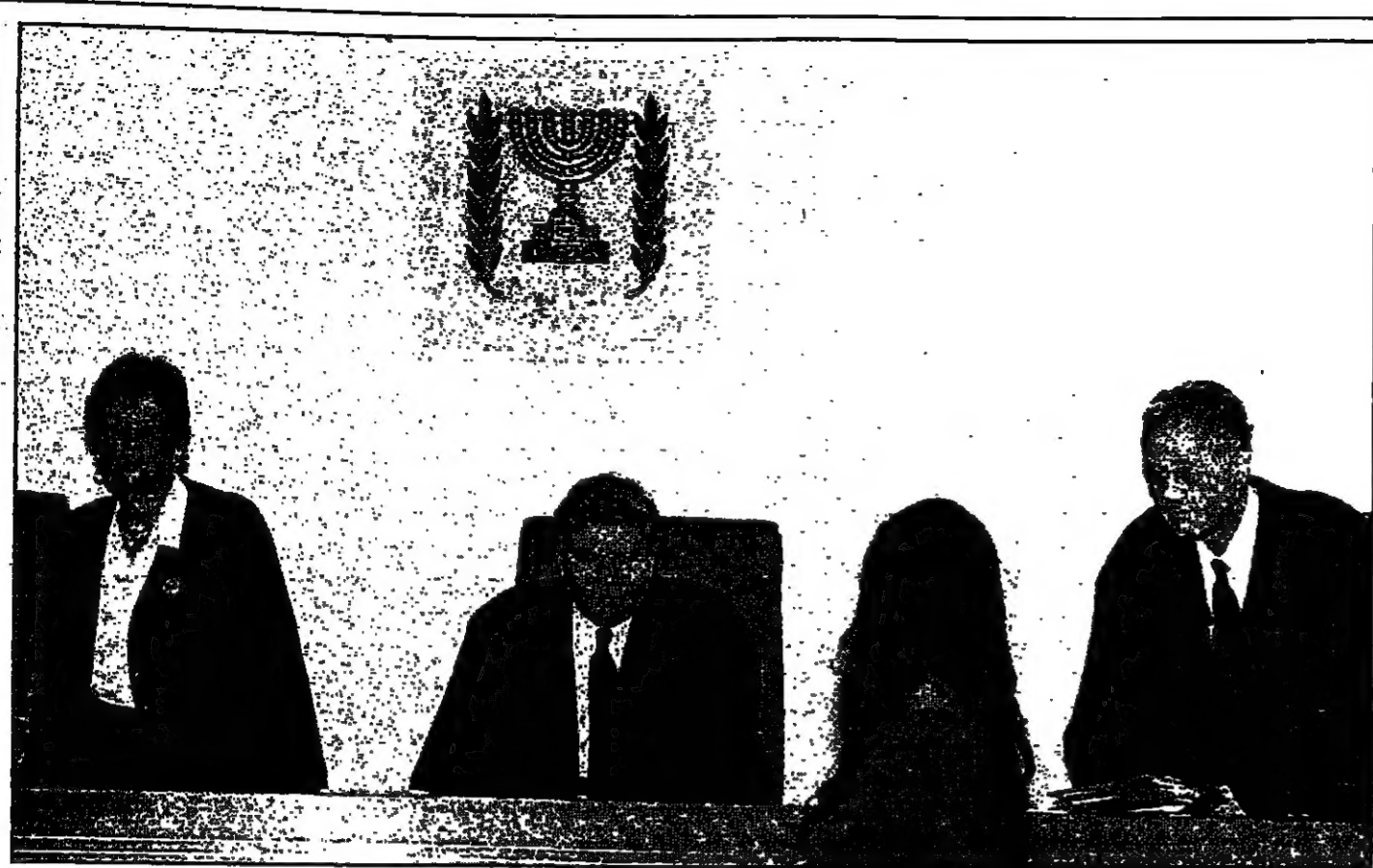
Prior to the burial, the cemetery is to be dedicated in a ceremony at which representatives of the Reform, Conservative, and secular Jewish movements are to take part. Also scheduled to take part is Beersheba Mayor Ya'acov Turner and Prof. Shimon Sheerit, who pressed for the law when he served as religious affairs minister.

Miriam Kunda, the director of Menucha Nehona, said yesterday that in theory burial space has been set aside in planned cemeteries or cemetery expansions in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa, but it has not been easy to actually acquire the land. She said that in Jerusalem, the area for alternative burial has been marked out in a planned cemetery expansion, but the Orthodox burial societies have been putting off the expansion by making use of every possible bit of ground in existing cemeteries.

In Tel Aviv, the Yarkon Cemetery has a lot of open space, she said, and it would be five to

eight years before a new cemetery, with an alternative burial section, came into use near Lod. Meanwhile, she added, if the society could acquire land, even from a private source, it would be able to cover its costs from the payments for burial from the National Insurance Institute, which in Tel Aviv ran to over NIS 4,000 a burial.

In Haifa, she said, Menucha Nehona actually has a plot of land, but there is no access road to the site. The alternative Beersheba cemetery is on the Hazerim road and burial there is restricted to above-ground vaults.



Petition denied

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, flanked by Justices Dorit Beinisch and Abdel Rahman Zuabi, yesterday reject a petition to the High Court of Justice by the Union of Local Authorities against Interior Minister Elihu Suissa. The union at first had accepted Suissa's new wage scale for local council heads, then reversed itself and petitioned the court, saying the new scale is detrimental to new council heads. The court summarily rejected the petition.

Dutch crash inquiry nearing end

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - Public hearings into the crash of an El Al cargo plane resumed yesterday with a string of sensitive questions still unanswered.

According to the official toll, 43 people died when the plane slammed into a high-rise apartment block in Amsterdam's mainly immigrant Bijlmer suburb on October 4, 1992.

Hundreds of Bijlmer residents and rescue workers have complained of persistent health problems that they believe are linked to the cargo and depleted uranium used as wing ballast.

Israeli authorities have confirmed the cargo included the chemical DMMP, which can be used in making sarin nerve gas. But they say the substance itself is non-toxic.

The last round of hearings, beginning yesterday and ending on March 12, will address the potentially explosive issue of how much senior cabinet ministers, past and present, knew of the disaster and kept to themselves.

Prime Minister Wim Kok and his deputy Annemarie Jorritsma are among those the committee is expected to call to testify under oath, along with former transport minister Hanja Maij.

One aviation official gave evidence last month that air authorities heard within half-an-hour of the disaster that the plane was carrying a hazardous load but agreed to hush the information up to avoid a public outcry.

Kok moved swiftly to suspend the officials concerned, but public confidence in the government was shaken.

Maij, transport minister at the time of the crash, has said her civil servants failed to pass on the information that the plane's cargo might be hazardous.

Jorritsma, Maij's successor, has also come under media fire for doing too little to get to the truth of the Bijlmer affair. She has vowed to stand down if the inquiry finds evidence of mismanagement during her term as transport minister.

The inquiry began public hearings on January 27, aiming to lay to rest numerous conspiracy theories about the disaster.

Witness accounts, sometimes conflicting, have brought to light mismanagement, confusion and secrecy at a high level.

In its final stage, the committee will also probe whether - and if so, why - El Al staff travelled to the scene immediately after the Boeing 747 crashed in flames. They will also continue their efforts to trace the plane's missing flight recorder.

NEWS

in brief

Thirty veterans volunteer for Lebanon duty

In a letter to Defense Minister Moshe Arens, 30 reserve soldiers and officers volunteered yesterday to serve in south Lebanon outposts and in IDF communications. The letter was initiated by Col. (res.) Avi Farhan, who said that when he was a young officer at the Suez Canal veteran officers and soldiers volunteered to serve there, boosting the morale of the serving troops. Since the offer was made public, Farhan said he has been besieged by requests to join the volunteer unit. He said the initiative has no connection to the political debate on whether the IDF should or should not remain in Lebanon. *litm*

Four youths arrested for throwing firebombs

Jerusalem police arrested four youngsters yesterday suspected of throwing firebombs at Jewish homes in the Old City. The suspects - aged eight, nine, 12, and 14 - admitted to having thrown the bombs. All except the 14-year-old were later released with warnings. *litm*

Northerners demand compensation

Shlomo Buhbut, chairman of the forum of confrontation line communities, yesterday demanded Finance Minister Meir Sheerit arrange government compensation for residents in the North, for economic hardships incurred as a result of Katyusha attacks from Lebanon. Buhbut estimated the attacks take place at least once a month, discouraging tourism and business ventures in the region. He said the government should be as responsible for locals' financial well-being as for their security. If appropriate compensation is not forthcoming, Buhbut said, the forum would have no choice but to petition to the High Court of Justice. *litm*

Man sentenced for beating wife, children

A man who beat his wife, son, and two daughters aged 10 and 11, sometimes with a belt and a broom, was sentenced to eight months in jail and given a two-years suspended sentence by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. The man had been ordered by police to stay away from his wife for 30 days after a previous complaint, but returned home after three weeks and beat her up. Judge Edna Kaplan said she took into consideration expressions of regret by the accused and attempts made to rehabilitate him. *litm*

Support group formed for soldiers' parents

Kupat Holim Clalit recently formed a special support group for those suffering anxiety as a result of their children serving in the IDF. The group, called "Noam," is supervised by a senior psychologist and a specially trained clinical social worker, and treats symptoms such as sleeplessness, uncontrolled weeping, and marital tensions, which are often experienced by parents of soldiers, irrespective of the actual risks their children face in their military service. Participants will be charged for the support group's services, as it is not offered in Kupat Holim Clalit's standard policy. *litm*

IDF officer loses two fingers

An IDF officer lost two fingers in a bomb blast yesterday, during a training exercise in the Golan Heights. The explosion severed two of his right-hand fingers. He was taken to Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed, but surgeons were unable to reattach the digits. *litm*

Levy puts students in charge of maintaining war memorials

By LIAT COLLINS

Following a letter written by St. Sgt. Omer Alkabetz highly critical of the neglectful maintenance of a memorial to fallen soldiers at Tel Fahar in the Golan Heights, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy ordered that high school students adopt specific memorials and clean them up.

Alkabetz, who belonged to a Golani unit, was killed in Lebanon by the Hizbullah roadside bomb on Sunday.

Levy also gave instructions that while at the memorials students discuss the units and the soldiers commemorated and their contribution to national security.

Interior Minister Elihu Suissa said his ministry would provide funding for upkeep of the memorial at Tel Fahar, which commemorates Golani troops who fell in

the 1973 battle. The Nature Protection and National Parks Authority has also offered to help the Defense Ministry maintain the various memorials and similar sites around the country. NPNA spokesman Ofer Greenstein said the authority had recently received several requests for help in maintaining sites such as the Negev Memorial near Beersheba.

He noted that the NPNA already takes care of certain spots such as the Ben-Gurion gravesite which is in a national park, and helps care for the memorial to the Egoz reconnaissance unit next to the national park at Nimrod's Castle.

The authority is responsible for 373 nature reserves and 110 national parks. Greenstein noted and said it had earned vast experience in upkeep of such places.

Alleged rape victim attempts to block officer's promotion to general

By DAN KZENBERG

A woman who claims she was raped by a senior IDF officer petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday to block his promotion to the rank of major-general and appointment as commander of a key field division.

The promotion and appointment of 44-year-old Brig.-Gen. Nir Galili was announced by the army on February 21 and is due to take effect tomorrow.

The woman, whose name has been withheld by her lawyers, served as Galili's personal assistant from 1995-6 at an army base in Tze'elim.

A few weeks after the two were found having sexual intercourse, the woman lodged a complaint against her commander. Galili was tried by then deputy chief of General Staff Matan Vilnai and IDF Judge Advocate-General Brig.-Gen. Uri Shoham and found guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer. Shoham ruled that Galili could not be promoted for two years, a period which ended in April 1998.

In her petition, the woman claims that Galili ought to have been court-martialed instead of tried by a disciplinary court.

"Throughout the investigation, the petitioner was in a severe mental state, because she was forced to relive the horrors of the events that had been forced upon her against her will and to her detriment," the petition stated. "She had to cope with the difficulties of the investigation and the feeling that the military establishment was out to get her in order to protect one of its most senior personnel." The woman also charged that the army put improper pressure on her in order to avoid court-martialing Galili.

The petition states that the woman was 19 and sexually inexperienced at the time of the liaison, whereas Galili was 40, married, and the father of three.

The Israel Women's Network and the Movement for Quality Government in Israel yesterday called on Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, and Judge Advocate-General Shoham to reconsider promoting Galili to major-general.

"Galili's promotion is improper morally and professionally from the outset," the groups wrote in a statement. "The advancement of an officer to the rank of major-general and a position in the top echelon of the IDF General Command after he was convicted of sexual harassment does not sit well with the principles of morality, justice, and human dignity which the IDF is meant to preserve and protect."

"There is no need to mince words in describing the seriousness of the phenomenon of sexual harassment and the impropriety of the individual who performs it. It is particularly serious when it involves a senior officer who illegally used his authority and takes advantage of his senior position to force his assistant to have illegal and undesired contact with him."

The organizations also called on Shoham to provide them with copies of the proceedings of Galili's disciplinary trial, citing the public's right to know.

Heidi J. Gleit contributed to this report.

Trial of Croatian death camp commander in doubt

By ELLI WOHLGELER

The trial of the commander of Croatia's most notorious concentration camp could be postponed before its scheduled start today, after he was rushed to a hospital yesterday, court officials said.

"During the morning of Wednesday... [Dinko] Sakic's state of health deteriorated overnight and he was given an urgent medical intervention," the court statement said. "Sakic was transferred to a civilian hospital's internal medical department and after checkups he was transferred to the Zagreb prison hospital," it said.

District Court Judge Drazen Tripalo will decide this morning whether to proceed with the trial on schedule, the statement added.

Sakic, 77, was the commandant of the infamous Jasenovac concentration camp, where close to 100,000 Serbs, Jews, and Gypsies were murdered by the Ustasha (Croatian fascists).

He is accused of "maltreating, torturing, and killing detainees" and allowing his subordinates to do the same when he served as commander of the camp between April and November 1944, after previously serving as deputy commander for two years. If convicted, Sakic faces up to 20 years in prison, the maximum sentence under Croatian law.

There were no installations for mass murder in Jasenovac, and many of the inmates were killed by axes, crowbars, and other primitive means, which made the camp notorious for cruelty and barbarism. It was nicknamed the "Auschwitz of the Balkans."

"Sakic is the litmus test for all Croatian society, because it's the first one they're doing," Efraim Zuroff, director of the Israel Office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said yesterday just before departing to Zagreb to witness the trial.

"This is a country which has had

incredible difficulty facing its past during World War II, a country where there was extensive collaboration with the Nazis, and widespread active participation of locals in the murder. We're hoping that this will be a sign that Croatia is willing to face its past."

Zuroff said the trial is especially important given recent statements by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, who said that the Jews inflated the number of Jews in the Holocaust - basically Holocaust denial - and that the Jews had run Jasenovac. He also proposed burying the victims and the perpetrators in Jasenovac.

After the war, Sakic escaped with

many of the Ustasha leaders to Argentina, where he lived in Santa Teresita, a resort 400 kilometers from Buenos Aires, until he was exposed in April 1998 by Jorge Camerassa, an Argentinean journalist, together with the Wiesenthal Center.

In the interview with Camerassa, Sakic said: "Nothing happened in Jasenovac. It was a work camp where the Jews managed themselves. We never put a hand on any of the prisoners in the camp. The people died of natural death. There was a typhus epidemic, for example, but there were no cremation ovens that killed anybody."

Following pressure from the

Wiesenthal Center, Sakic was arrested by Argentina and extradited to Croatia. So was his wife, Nada Sakic, who served as a guard at Stara Gradiska, the women's camp of Jasenovac. But she was released from prison last month after the Croats claimed that there was no evidence against her.

"We feel that there is a case against her," said Zuroff, "and I plan to submit new evidence against her when I get to Zagreb this week, which proves that she personally committed murder. We fully expect her to be put back into jail and to be put on trial."

News agencies contributed to this report.

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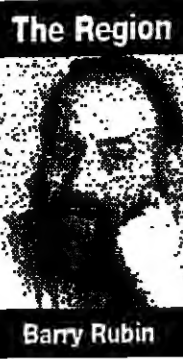
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Prognosis: Poor

Every week, Iranian planes arrive at the airport in Damascus carrying munitions for Hizbullah. How long can we expect the Iranians to keep sending these weapons, the Syrians to permit their passage, and the Lebanese terrorists to continue using them?

To formulate Israel's policy in southern Lebanon, all three of these factors must be constantly monitored.

The main development in Iran has been the local elections. Incomplete results show a victory for the relatively moderate supporters of President Mohammed Khatami.



Barry Rubin

On the one hand, the hard-liners tried to keep pro-Khatami leaders off the ballot, especially in Teheran. But, on the other hand, the two factions managed to work together and the candidates were allowed to run.

The election's outcome clearly shows the strong, continuing base of support for Khatami. Yet this has a very limited effect on Iran's policies, domestic or foreign.

When hard-liners in the Intelligence Ministry murdered moderate dissidents, the pro-Khatami minister was forced to resign. Other Khatami supporters are under house arrest, face serious harassment, or have been beaten up. The Foreign Ministry's promise to end attempts to kill author Salman Rushdie was undermined by a huge semi-governmental foundation reissuing its reward for murdering him.

All the facilities for backing international terrorism and all the Iranian stocks of weapons of mass destruction are in the hands of hard-liners. Efforts to move toward rapprochement with the US have been dead for about nine months. And while Iran has cut back funding to Hizbullah due to its own economic problems, it has drawn closer to the Palestinian Hamas movement.

Indeed, for the time being, the Khatami revolution is over. He has been stopped cold by the hard-liners. This movement will revive, under Khatami or some future leader, but there is no serious short-term hope of a more moderate Iranian foreign policy. The missiles and other weapons will continue arriving in Damascus en route to southern Lebanon.

What about Hizbullah itself? At a recent academic conference, American reporters repeatedly asked why Israel calls Hizbullah a terrorist group since, they said, it is only defending its own country's territory. They were simply unwilling to acknowledge what has been clear in every Hizbullah statement: the goal is to attack and destroy Israel, not free southern Lebanon as an end in itself. Hizbullah does participate in Lebanese parliamentary politics. Some day it might become more moderate, but this has certainly not happened yet.

Thus, it is unclear whether a

unilateral Israeli withdrawal could mean some sort of a deal ending attacks on the North. There also remains the issue of how Israel can avoid abandoning those Lebanese who, passionately opposing Hizbullah's domination of their own villages, have fought alongside Israel. Unfortunately, there is little or no reason to believe that a redeployment along the border would end the fighting. Iran and Syria will not stop supporting the attacks.

Moreover, Hizbullah has definitely not been intimidated by events. On the contrary, its confidence has been bolstered by its recent successes and the calls by many Israelis to retreat to the border.

AN element often ignored in these analyses is the Hizbullah-Palestinian relationship. Supporters of Yasser Arafat have been driven out of the southern Lebanon refugee camps. The new leaders there are not exactly mainstream Hamas, but do comprise a mixture of Iranian-subsidized radical nationalist groups plus Iranian-subsidized and Hizbullah-trained Islamic forces.

If Israel were to withdraw, even if Hizbullah stopped its own direct attacks, the movement would probably turn over its guns and guides to Palestinian counterparts. After all, in the 1970s, virtually all the terrorist attacks on Israel were waged by Palestinians from Lebanon, not local Lebanese groups.

The only way that the fighting in southern Lebanon can be ended would be by an Israel-Syria peace agreement. It should be noted, however, that this does not just mean turning over all the Golan to Syria in exchange for full peace but something even worse: reaching a deal on the much tougher terms that Syria can be expected to set.

The Syrians are not eager either to end the fighting with Israel or to end the fighting in Lebanon. Not only does the shooting in southern Lebanon cost Damascus nothing, but it provides a rationale for the continued - and highly profitable - Syrian presence in Lebanon. Why should Syria end such a good thing?

Indeed, the situation is far from ideal from Israel's point of view. There is no purely local Lebanese reason why a single Israeli or Lebanese should die. Israel has no material interest in remaining in southern Lebanon. This is an unnecessary war, but it is also a war imposed on us.

Any signal that there might be a change in this dynamic should be watched for and - if it appears - should be welcomed and pursued.

But there simply isn't one yet, and one doesn't seem likely in the near future.

US used UNSCOM to spy on Iraq

America infiltrated the UN arms control teams to monitor the Iraqi military, reliable sources say. Even the US government has ceased categorically denying it. Barton Gellman reports

United States intelligence services infiltrated agents and espionage equipment for three years into United Nations arms control teams in Iraq to eavesdrop on the Iraqi military without the knowledge of the UN agency that it used to disguise its work, according to US government employees and documents describing the classified operation.

By all accounts the UN Special Commission, or UNSCOM, did not authorize or benefit from this channel of US surveillance. This contrasts with previous statements in which the Clinton administration acknowledged use of eavesdropping equipment but said it was done solely in cooperation with UNSCOM to pierce Iraqi concealment of its illegal weapons.

As recently as last week, the administration asserted again that its intelligence work within UNSCOM was invited by the panel's senior leaders and directed at rooting out Iraq's forbidden missiles and its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programs.

Deputy State Department spokesman James Foley said in a February 23 briefing that charges of US espionage inside UNSCOM are "unfathomable except as elements which can only serve Saddam Hussein's propaganda machine."

Any unrelated intelligence gathered under UNSCOM's umbrella, a high-ranking official told reporters invited to a previous briefing, "was a kind of windfall" resulting from the fact that the Iraqis who worked to thwart UNSCOM were also members of President Saddam Hussein's inner circle.

IN FACT, according to sources who spoke on condition of anonymity, the US rigged UNSCOM equipment and office space - without permission - to intercept a high volume of ordinary Iraqi military communications.

Those communications, carried between microwave towers and linking Iraqi commanders to infantry and armored forces in the field, were of considerable value to US military planners but generally unrelated to UNSCOM's special weapons mandate.

US government officials said they considered the risk of discrediting an international arms control system by infiltrating it for their own eavesdropping. They said the stakes were so high in the conflict with Iraq, and the probability of discovery so low, that they deemed the risks worth running.

Microwave channels are line-of-sight communications, typically transmitting a narrow beam from hilltop to hilltop and difficult to intercept by aircraft or satellites. American intelligence agencies saw an opportunity to tap into those signals when UNSCOM changed the arrangement it used to monitor distant sites in Iraq with video cameras.

Pioneered in May 1993, UNSCOM's "remote monitoring system" grew over the years to encompass more than 300 arms installations and research facilities in Iraq.

For the first three years of operation, the video images and logs of electrical power use were recorded onto magnetic tape at the remote sites. Inspectors based in Baghdad periodically drove out to collect the tapes.

In March 1996, with Iraq's consent, UNSCOM began transmitting images from the cameras back to Baghdad using radio signals. The signals were boosted by relays, known as repeater stations, arrayed along the paths from the camera sites to Baghdad.

The new system gave UNSCOM's inspectors a view of distant facilities in "near real time," a significant improvement.

BUT unbeknownst to UNSCOM, the US signals and sensor techni-



An anti-American protest in Baghdad last week. The banner reads: All the people are with Saddam Hussein.

cians who installed and maintained the system were intelligence operatives, and the repeater stations they built had a covert capability.

Hidden in their structure were antennas capable of intercepting microwave transmissions, and the US agents placed some of them near important nodes of Iraqi military communications.

The principal designer of the new system was a military intelligence operative described by a former supervisor as a brilliant engineer and "a pure, energetic, walking, talking slide rule."

The engineer and his team undertook repeated "maintenance" missions in Iraq from September 1995 to June 1996, disclosing so little to UNSCOM of their work that the commission's director of operations, Air Force Col. James Moore, clashed repeatedly with the engineer and eventually was recalled by Washington.

At least two other technicians lent by the US government to run the remote camera system for UNSCOM were employees of the Central Intelligence Agency's clandestine service. At the request of the US government, the three names are being withheld.

UNSCOM sought out technical resources from the US and elsewhere. After years of frustration, the commission gradually built what amounted to the first UN intelligence-gathering operation.

But its reliance on contributing governments led to deceptions within deceptions that eventually helped destroy the special commission.

For years, two conflicting story lines have battled for world opinion as the Security Council debated the future of Iraqi disarmament.

The US and UNSCOM said their use of increasingly intrusive inspections and sophisticated technology was made necessary by Iraq's resistance to full disclosure of its illegal arms. Iraq maintained that the US and other unfriendly powers were using UNSCOM's access to the country for espionage.

The new disclosures suggest that both claims were true.

They came at a delicate moment for those concerned with arms control in Iraq, because the bulk of the US espionage came under cover of

the system of "ongoing monitoring and verification" imposed on Iraq by Security Council Resolution 715.

Iraq has forbidden arms inspections since the US and Britain bombed it in December, and the Security Council is now trying to devise a new system of monitoring to ensure that Iraq does not resume large-scale development of forbidden weapons.

USE of the remote camera system for espionage coincided with another channel of eavesdropping that was known to UNSCOM's top leaders.

That channel, code-named Shake the Tree, used commercial scanners to intercept low-powered VHF radio transmissions used by Iraq to direct its concealment efforts against UNSCOM.

The Washington Post and the Boston Globe disclosed that operation in January, and the US government confirmed the stories the same month.

American intelligence agencies elected to pursue a second method of eavesdropping because "we were very concerned about protecting our independence of access" to Iraqi military communications, said a knowledgeable US official. "We did not want to rely on a multinational body that might or might not continue to operate as it was operating."

For that reason, the US government decided not to inform Rolf Ekeus, the Swedish diplomat who was UNSCOM's executive chairman, or his Australian successor, Richard Butler, about the second eavesdropping operation.

According to sources in Washington, the CIA notified Charles Duelfer, the American deputy to both men, to help ensure that UNSCOM's headquarters staff did not interfere with the operation. Duelfer did not return telephone calls made over several days for this story.

The remote camera surveillance system has not operated since UNSCOM evacuated all personnel from Iraq in December, immediately before the US-British military strikes. Knowledgeable government employees said the eavesdropping system concealed in it

was abandoned before that.

Ekeus, who is now Sweden's ambassador to Washington, said in an interview that he did not believe the US could have built covert antennas into the video relay system because Iraqi technicians should have discovered them.

"I think it can't be true," he said. "This was stuff that was totally in the hands of Iraq. It was standing out in the rain, so to say. It's really very difficult to believe that anything serious could happen that way."

[Iraqi counterintelligence agents] were dismantling these stations all the time, and they would have understood if there was anything that didn't fit," the ostensible task of bringing video signals to Baghdad.

If the United States did use UNSCOM cover for espionage, Ekeus added, "We have always stood against that."

Ekeus cited one of the first controversial inspections, in 1991, when US team leaders reported directly to Washington on what they were finding.

"I reacted very strongly against that, and we stopped it," he said.

UNTIL late last week, the US government appeared to deny categorically that it placed covert agents on UNSCOM teams without UNSCOM's knowledge and consent.

In a January 7 briefing for six invited newspaper and television reporters, a high-ranking US official said: "We didn't put people on UN teams to be agents of the United States. Everyone we put on UNSCOM worked for UNSCOM. There they were part of UNSCOM, not reporting separately. But afterwards, of course, they were debriefed."

In interviews for this story, spokesmen for the CIA, Pentagon, White House and State Department declined to repeat any categorical denials.

"In general our efforts with UNSCOM were focused on how to help UNSCOM, through a number of different means, uncover and track down the mechanisms and the materials associated with weapons of mass destruction," State Department spokesman James P.

Rubin said in a prepared statement. "We worked very hard at that. We contributed great resources, personnel and effort. I cannot comment on the specific intelligence question that you raise."

Asked whether use of a multinational arms control panel for US espionage would undermine efforts to halt proliferation elsewhere, Rubin said he could not confirm or deny there had been any such espionage.

He added: "The Iraq case was a unique case in history" because other arms control arrangements are voluntary.

"UNSCOM never has been seen as a precedent, nor need be seen as a precedent, for other nonproliferation efforts around the world."

UNSCOM's present leader, Butler, declined to be interviewed for this story after being told of the subject.

"Richard Butler has no knowledge of these matters and won't comment on allegations the veracity of which is not clear," said his spokesman, Ewen Buchanan.

Privately, according to close associates, Butler expressed distress when he first learned of the allegations, saying any such espionage under UNSCOM cover would discredit other efforts to verify compliance with international weapons pacts.

"If all this stuff turns out to be true, then Rolf Ekeus and I have been played for suckers, haven't we?" he was quoted as saying in one such conversation.

"I've spent a lifetime of helping build and defend the nonproliferation regimes. Piggybacking in this manner [by US intelligence] can only serve the interests of those who reject meaningful efforts at arms control."

ONE US official with direct knowledge said the camera-relay intercepts were "normal military communications, not related to UNSCOM" except insofar as they formed "part of the whole mosaic, and any one piece can help unlock others."

One UNSCOM inspector said the UN panel had no use for sort of signals overheard on this channel, noting, "We don't have an interest in the troop rotation policy of [Iraq's] V Corps."

A final irony is that the American spies, in turn, were spied upon.

Some of UNSCOM's technical staff detected mysterious burst transmissions from the ground that coincided with the overflight of American U-2 spy planes, but were unable to identify their source.

According to knowledgeable sources, an Iranian agent in Baghdad also took note of the encrypted transmissions and sent a message back to Teheran speculating that Americans were running a signals intelligence operation out of the United Nations' Baghdad headquarters.

The British government, in turn, intercepted the Iranian transmission.

In May 1997 Britain's General Communications Headquarters asked its American counterpart, the National Security Agency, for an explanation. The agency, according to sources, did not provide one.

"We don't tell the British everything, even if they are our closest intelligence ally," said one US official. "They don't tell us everything they're doing, either."

(The Washington Post)

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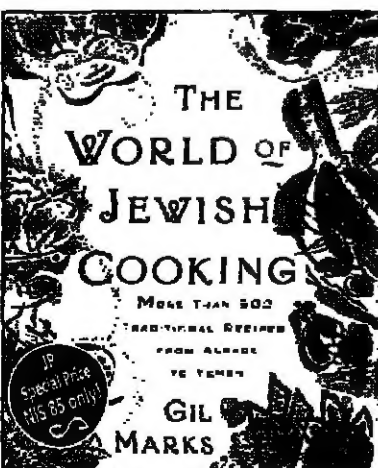
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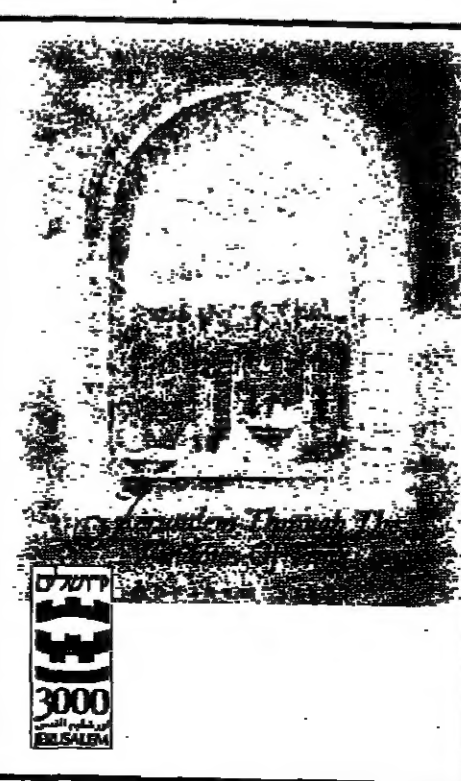
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הכרזה מן האוכל

Demirel: US pipeline attacks unacceptable

ANKARA—Turkish President Suleyman Demirel said yesterday that US strikes in northern Iraq that led to the closure of a pipeline carrying crude from Iraq to Turkey were "unacceptable."

The US warplanes patrol the skies of northern Iraq from a base in southern Turkey.

The US patrols flying from the Incirlik air base dropped 30 laser-guided bombs on two communications sites, radio relay sites and anti-aircraft guns on Monday.

Baghdad said a communications center used to monitor crude flows through the pipeline had been completely destroyed in the attack. Iraq was working around the clock to repair damage to the oil facilities.

Strikes on targets in the northern and southern Iraqi no-fly zones have become a regular occurrence since December when Baghdad announced it would begin actively resisting the patrols started after the 1991 Gulf War.

Turkey says it has lost some \$30

billion in trade with Iraq due to the imposition of sanctions on its neighbor, a former major trading partner.

Iraqi technicians want to repair the pipeline before a crucial meeting this month of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, an Oil Ministry official said yesterday.

The pipeline carries about half of Iraqi oil exports of about 2 million barrels a day, and Iraq wouldn't like to attend the March 23 meeting

with its export capability so badly hindered, said the unidentified official.

Iraq is "searching for quick solutions" to get the twin pipeline working again, said the official.

Iraq has been allowed to export oil since December 1996 in an exception to the UN sanctions imposed after its invasion of Kuwait. But oil revenues can only finance humanitarian purchases.

"[UN] oil monitors are hoping that the situation will be normal-

ized soon," UN spokesman Onukaba Ojo told AP.

The oil official said Iraqi technicians are trying to find ways to bypass the wrecked communications centers, but acknowledge that rehabilitating the two facilities is beyond their technological ability.

Another senior oil official said certain parts will have to be imported and installed by foreign experts, including gadgets to measure pressure and temperature.

(News agencies)



Two ethnic Albanian teenagers help their collapsing mother after being evacuated by the Red Cross from the combat area in the Kosovo town of Kacanik yesterday.

US 'encouraged' by Kosovo progress

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — White House spokesman David Leavy yesterday said good progress had been made in talks to convince ethnic Albanians to accept a peace deal on Kosovo.

"There's indications that they are going to officially embrace the political settlement and we are encouraged by that and we're going to move forward to lock that in," Leavy said.

"International mediators have been seeking a compromise to end the violence in the Yugoslav

province, where rebels are trying to break away from Serb rule.

"We're making clear to both parties that it's in their interests to sign" a peace agreement that would require Serbs to withdraw many of its troops from Kosovo and be replaced by NATO peacekeeping forces, Leavy said.

If the ethnic Albanians accept a peace accord, it would increase pressure on Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to agree to its terms or face punishing NATO air strikes.

The Serbs have objected to the presence of NATO troops on its soil to enforce any agreement.

Yugoslav army and Serbian police forces have fired heavily on suspected positions of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army in the last several days, sending panic-stricken villagers fleeing their homes.

Humanitarian aid groups sent convoys to Kosovo's border with Macedonia during a lull in fighting yesterday to help thousands of ethnic Albanians displaced by

an escalation in fighting.

Hundreds of people have been camped in the open this week as a result of the fighting between ethnic Albanian rebels and government troops, whose buildup along the border is in defiance of NATO air strike warnings.

In some of the heaviest fighting since US-led peace talks were suspended last week, several rebels and a Yugoslav army sergeant were killed Tuesday, according to the Serb Media Center.

Turkey, Greece exchange accusations over Ocalan

ANKARA — Turkey will not put up with Greece's "hostile" attitude, a senior Foreign Ministry official said, warning of dangerous developments in the region, a Turkish daily reported yesterday.

The new warning came one day after United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan appealed to neighbors Turkey and Greece to ease tensions that have soared since the capture of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Greece helped protect Ocalan, Turkey's No. 1 enemy, hiding him in its embassy in Nairobi before he was nabbed by Turkish forces there.

In an interview with the daily *Milliyet*, Turkey's Foreign Ministry undersecretary, Korkmaz Haktanir, accused Greece of following "a rigid, hostile policy."

"Greece has to change its attitude otherwise there could be negative developments in the eastern Mediterranean," Haktanir said.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel has threatened military action against Greece over its support to the rebels. The two countries have come to the brink of war several times over the past 25 years.

Greece yesterday rejected as "ridiculous" Turkish accusations that it was supporting terrorism, saying such charges further strained relations between the two countries.

"Our fight against terrorism... is continuous. Nobody can accuse Greece of the opposite," government spokesman Dimitris Reppas said. "All these (accusations) are a joke, they are ridiculous."

Milliyet also reported yesterday that Turkey's Kurdish rebels have taken steps towards choosing a new leader to replace jailed chief Abdullah Ocalan, a Turkish newspaper said yesterday.

The paper said a meeting of the PKK had appointed a senior commander, Cemil Bayik, as the guerrillas' "high authority."

Other Kurdish sources said any new title for Bayik did not mean he was a direct replacement for Ocalan but was recognition that he now had a greater role in the rebels' fight for Kurdish self-rule in southeastern Turkey.

Bayik, in his late forties, was a fellow founder of the PKK in 1978 and is alleged to have planned an attack on the army in 1984 which is regarded as marking the start of the armed campaign. (News agencies)

WORLD

in brief

At least five police killed in Lagos rioting

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — At least five police officers were killed yesterday when rioters firebombed a police barracks and a police station in Nigeria's commercial capital, police sources said.

The Oyo barracks were badly damaged, and the Adakara police station about 16 kilometers away was burned down. Peter Ooh, a police officer from the Adakara station, said attackers dragged many of his colleagues from the building and killed five of them. It appeared the attacks were carried out by people opposed to the victory of retired Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo in Saturday's presidential election. On Monday, attackers destroyed two other police stations in Lagos, killing one person and injuring four others.

South African elections to be held June 2

CAPE TOWN (AP) — President Nelson Mandela said yesterday that South Africa's second all-race elections would be held on June 2. Mandela, who has led the nation since 1994's all-race ballot ended white rule, plans to retire after the election. He is almost certain to be succeeded by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki. Recent opinion polls have shown the ruling African National Congress easily ahead of any other political party and likely to win another clear majority in the 400-strong National Assembly.

Uganda apologizes for tourists' deaths

KAMPALA (AP) — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni apologized yesterday for the backing deaths of eight foreign tourists by Rwandan rebels, saying rangers in the lush gorilla reserve they were visiting never alerted the army to a security problem.

"The park authorities should have foreseen this problem and asked for support," he said. Ugandan and Rwandan soldiers set out on foot patrols yesterday in a joint manhunt for the rebels, who used machetes to kill two Americans, four Britons, and two New Zealanders. The dead were among more than a dozen foreigners the rebels kidnapped in their fight to undermine Rwanda's government. At least six other tourists escaped.

Singer Dusty Springfield dies

LONDON (AP) — Singer Dusty Springfield, whose husky, white soul voice fueled such 1960s hits as "Son of a Preacher Man" and "Wishin' and Hopin'," has died after a long battle with breast cancer. She was 59. Springfield died Tuesday night at her home in Henley-on-Thames, about 45 kilometers west of London, said her agent, Paul Fenn.

She underwent extensive chemotherapy until 1995, when she was diagnosed as being clear of the disease. But the cancer returned the following year.

Reports: Japan set to okay birth control pills

TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese Health Ministry committee gave its approval for the sale of birth control pills yesterday, news reports said, clearing the way for the pill's sale here almost four decades after its first use in the West.

The Central Pharmaceutical Affairs Council will submit its recommendation to the ministry in June, meaning the pill could be available by this autumn, news reports said.

A spokesman for the Health and Welfare Ministry refused to comment.

The reports come as women's groups voice outrage over a ministry decision in January to approve the male impotence drug Viagra after deliberating just half a year.

An application to approve the pill in Japan has languished in the Health Ministry for nine years, and calls were made for its approval long before that. In the US, the pill was approved by the Food and

Drug Administration in 1960. Resistance to the pill in Japan has largely come from doctors, who say they are worried about side effects. They also say they want to promote condom usage to stem the spread of the AIDS virus.

But women's groups say doctors don't want a reduction in the number of abortions, which at about 100,000 yen (\$850) are a lucrative business in a country where the national health program caps fees for most other operations.

Unwanted pregnancies are common in Japan, with official statistics showing one in five pregnancies end in abortion.

Japan's per capita abortion rate is far higher than European nations, although somewhat lower than that of the US.

Medical opinion outside Japan is generally in favor of the pill. A major study published last month in the *British Medical Journal* found no long-term ill effects.

Amid candidacy talk, Hillary Clinton visits New York

By ELLEN WULFHORST

NEW YORK (Reuters) — First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton paid a much-heralded visit yesterday to New York, where the possibility of her running for the US Senate is the talk of the town.

The trip marked the first time the first lady has been in New York since the speculation over the possibility of her running for the Senate has reached such a fevered pitch.

Clinton's first stop was a visit to a school in the city's Queens bor-

ough, where she was loudly applauded by about 500 students and adults when she delivered a 20-minute speech on the value of arts and education.

"We need all the help we can get to return the arts to its rightful place within our schools," said Clinton, who avoided a mob of reporters and TV crews and did not discuss her possible Senate run.

However, her escort on the trip, Democratic Representative Gary Ackerman, who represents Queens in Congress, said he discussed a

possible campaign with Clinton on Tuesday night and indicated she was considering a run.

"She told me she was going to consider it," Ackerman said.

"She indicated she had not made up her mind but clearly it is something that is occupying a great deal of her thoughts in between doing all these public events."

The highlight of her trip, at least to many New York Democrats, was to be a fund-raising luncheon of the party's Women's Leadership Forum.

The fund raiser where Clinton was headed yesterday was enormously successful even before it started.

Democratic National Committee officials said not only was the guest list nearly doubled due to demand, but some 300 people were placed on a waiting list to attend.

Clinton planned to speak today at a UN event to commemorate International Women's Day and then attend an event honoring women in sports before returning to Washington.

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A question of understanding

In searching for a way out of the Lebanon imbroglio, it is tempting, as Defense Minister Moshe Arens did in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, to consider scrapping the 1996 Grapes of Wrath understandings. But as unfair as those understandings may seem from an Israeli perspective, it would be unwise to abandon them without a coherent alternative in mind.

Grapes of Wrath, Israel's last major operation in Lebanon, took place three years ago, just before the last national elections. In its wake "understandings" were reached indirectly between Israel and Hizbullah that neither side would attack civilian targets. For Israel this was to mean an end to Katyusha attacks on its northern communities. But as Arens told the *Post* on Tuesday, "The understandings create a situation in which Hizbullah is free to launch attacks against Israeli and SLA soldiers and outposts... and we are not free to attack their bases, which are in the villages. That is an asymmetry which I think everybody realizes makes it very difficult for the IDF." The danger of such asymmetry arising, however, was anticipated in the understandings. Article 3 of which reads, "Civilian populated areas and industrial and electrical installations will not be used as launching grounds for attacks." In addition, Article 4 states that "Nothing herein shall preclude any party from exercising the right of self-defense." It is certainly understandable that the government is no longer willing to accept a situation in which Israeli soldiers are attacked with impunity from civilian areas - in violation of the agreement - and yet Israel is constrained from responding. Yesterday, the five-nation monitoring group established under the 1996 agreement "acknowledged" that Israel's complaints regarding mortar fire from civilian areas were valid.

The statement issued, which had to be agreed to by all five members (Israel, the U.S., France, Lebanon, and Syria), stated that "more than 70 mortar rounds" were fired "from within the village [of Majdel Slim], in violation of the Understanding." Aside from wagging its collective finger at Hizbullah, the monitoring group does nothing to prevent such violations from recurring.

There may be a solution for Israel, however, that stops short of scrapping the Understandings

altogether, and instead attempts to reshape them as they were meant to work from the beginning. Israel could interpret the self-defense clause of the Understandings to include immediate and direct retaliation against mortar attacks, even if they are launched from civilian areas. Such an approach, of course, would not be easy to effectively implement. Yet at times Israel does have the capability to carry out an immediate, accurate, and effective response, with minimal risk to the civilian population. Israel would also consider itself free to launch commando operations against Hizbullah units illegally operating from civilian areas. By changing its tactics in this manner, Israel could legitimately argue that it is enforcing, rather than scrapping, the Grapes of Wrath Understandings. Hizbullah would no longer be able to operate from civilian areas with impunity and in violation of the agreement.

Hizbullah might "retaliate" against the new Israeli approach by launching Katyusha attacks against the North, but this would risk severe retaliation from Israel and the complete breakdown of the Understandings. Neither side, it seems, really wants that to happen, as illustrated by Hizbullah's restraint after Israel's recent retaliation following the killing of Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein and three others.

Israel should state clearly to the U.S. and France, as key members of the monitoring group, that it is no longer willing to tolerate constant violations of the Understandings by Hizbullah. However, Israel should not - as Arens seemed to be hinting was under consideration - act as if the Understandings are already too far gone to attempt reconstruction. Since 1996, the number of Katyusha attacks against Israeli civilians has gone down greatly. In addition, the five-nation monitoring group is the only forum where Israelis and Syrians can talk to each other.

Even though the current level of violations cannot be tolerated, nullifying the Understandings would result in an escalation of the war, which is not an option on the eve of national elections. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon's unrealistic call for an "emergency government" notwithstanding, longer-term solutions will have to wait until after the elections, when Israel's military and diplomatic options are slightly less limited.

Sharon's turn

URI DAN

Following the seven casualties we suffered in Lebanon in less than a week, we have to honestly admit that this harsh and costly war against Hizbullah has been a tactical failure.

It must be clear that this is not the fault of the soldiers: they are part of the most daring generation of fighters the IDF has ever known, and are no less outstanding than those who have excelled

lect the Galilee.

Defense minister Ariel Sharon was removed from his post in 1983 because the IDF succeeded in defeating Yasser Arafat and his terrorist cohorts. Sharon's political opponents, green with envy, took advantage of the massacre at Sabra and Shatilla - in which Arab Christians murdered Arab Moslems - and claimed that it was time to end Sharon's "policy of

Maybe it's time to listen to what the most security-minded and experienced man on the scene has to say

throughout the army's glorious past. They are risking their lives to assure that which we know can never be compromised: the safety of the residents of the North.

Successive Israeli governments and defense ministers, in accordance with the plans of IDF generals, determined that we stay in the security zone in southern Lebanon. But it is clear that the security zone is not sufficient, and that the methods being used by the IDF there are not efficient enough.

We must make some kind of move in Lebanon: the question is where and how.

What is certain, though, is that we cannot just bail out of Lebanon. To do so would be abandoning those who live in the North.

Even worse, Palestinian terror groups in Judea, Samaria and Gaza will no doubt say to themselves, "How are we any different than our heroic brothers in Hizbullah?" Many Palestinians are likely to believe that terror is indeed the way to make Israel capitulate. And behind them are the Arab armies who are undoubtedly sharpening their swords, as they gaze hungrily at Israel that seems to be slowly weakening.

Over the past 16 years, Israel has gone through an entire cycle of experiences in its attempt to pro-

force" in Lebanon. It was time to use brains, not brawn, they said.

As a result of this, defense minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered the IDF to essentially flee Lebanon in 1985 to the narrow security zone in the south. The only person in the cabinet to vote against this redeployment because it seemed to him to be insufficient was Sharon himself.

IDF generals, including Ehud Barak and Amnon Shahak, backed Rabin enthusiastically. Interestingly, they were also responsible for using plenty of brawn, not brains, in Lebanon, ordering heavy air bombardments during 1993's Operation Accountability and Operation Grapes of Wrath in 1996.

When Yitzhak Mordechai was named defense minister in June 1996 he maintained the same obtuse battle concepts in southern Lebanon that he himself had carried out when he had earlier served as OC Northern Command.

Amiram Levine, who succeeded him in that position, improved the fighting methods, which helped the IDF score some notable successes. But it was clear that this was not enough.

That's why in March 1998, Sharon first suggested to the cabinet that Israel should start withdrawing from southern Lebanon

Dry Bones



in stages, while insisting on new, detailed security arrangements.

Sharon warned the cabinet that making a solution to Lebanon dependent on an arrangement with Syria is unacceptable, because negotiations with Damascus could take a long time, and because there is no reason to link the situation in Lebanon with talks about the Golan Heights, which is what Syria is trying to force via its Hizbullah proxies.

Mordechai rejected Sharon's suggestions because he saw them as an insult to his pride; after all, he saw himself as "Mr. Security."

In the weeks before he was fired by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Mordechai pressed General Staff members to support his positions during discussions on Lebanon in November and December. The generals, who were afraid of Mordechai, fell in behind his outdated positions. And Mordechai and his spokesmen unceasingly repeated the lie

that he, Mordechai, had prevented "adventurous operations" planned by Sharon and Netanyahu in Lebanon.

Now the government no longer needs to deal with Mordechai's attempts to save face. When human lives are at stake, there isn't a day to waste, and it is important that there be some movement in Lebanon.

After all these years, in which all the attempts by the "brains" to solve the Lebanon problem didn't work, it is time to listen to what the most security-minded and experienced person on either the Left or Right - Ariel Sharon - has to say.

Even his political enemies have to admit - that is, if their tears over the fallen are not crocodile tears - that Sharon is the only person who can suggest a secure and diplomatically feasible way to protect the lives of the northern residents with the least possible damage.

The View From the East

DAOUD KUTTAB

Travel agonies

Hussein Tirawi, from Ramallah, was five in 1995 when he was involved in a bad car accident which left him unable to speak or move his limbs.

Since then his mother has been taking him to the Alyn Hospital in west Jerusalem for physiotherapy treatment. The therapy helped Hussein regain movement in most of his limbs, though today, at age nine, he still has a speech problem and difficulty keeping his balance.

This week, Hussein's mother took her son for his treatment as usual, armed with her valid travel permit. She has used the permit, renewed every three months to enter Jerusalem, and has done so three times a week for the last four years.

So it didn't enter her mind that she would have a problem crossing the Israeli military checkpoint near A-Ram, north of Jerusalem. But when she arrived, an Israeli soldier refused to allow her and her son entry. The reason: the closure that had been placed on the Palestinian territories because of the celebrations of Purim in Israel.

Purim is not a national Israeli holiday nor a religious holiday. It is similar to Halloween in the

United States in which children dress up in funny costumes and go disguised to community parties and get-togethers. This extra-tight closure, approved by the new Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens, in effect makes the existing travel passes ineffective.

MK Yossi Sarid complained about the incident. An Israeli official, who admitted that Mrs. Tirawi has a valid travel permit, explained that this permit is not valid during this special closure.

More aggravating anecdotes from the Palestinian border-crossing chronicles

The only Palestinians allowed into Jerusalem are those who can get yet another permit for such occasions, he said. And, the official Israeli spokesman continued, since the young Tirawi's health was not in danger, the Israeli army would not issue the necessary permit!

Just like that, the "only democracy in the Middle East" defends its continued apartheid policy, this time unabashedly defending the preven-

tion of a sick and disabled child from getting necessary treatment.

THESE travel agonies are not restricted to Palestinians.

Before the latest closure, a famous Egyptian singer was invited to sing in Palestine. In a major coup, the Jericho Winter Festival succeeded in signing up one of the leading Arab singers, Hani Shaker to sing in Jericho. Shaker is to young Arab teenagers what the Beatles were to American

awaiting him.

Eleven hours after their plane landed, a tired and humiliated singer and band arrived in Jericho and decided that they would not be able to do anything that night, much to the disappointment of the thousands of Palestinians who had come to see the opening-night ceremonies and meet their idol.

Despite the initial letdown, Palestinians filled every spot in the stadium the following night and enjoyed listening to Shaker sing his hit songs, along with two new songs written just for the occasion.

A young teenager climbed on stage and kissed the Egyptian star, which made 15,000 teenage fans - 75% of whom were teenage girls - go crazy.

Shaker, who spoke at a press conference about the humiliations he faced at the hands of the Israeli border guards, ended his concert with one of his famous songs, entitled "Mistake."

It left his fans wondering whether he felt it was a mistake to have allowed himself the humiliation of coming to Palestine while the Israelis are still in charge of the border crossings.

ideal - and invariably failing to meet it.

Because it's still going on, this threadbare comedy.

A professor of medicine points to her younger colleague and recites the litany of those familiar cloying legends. "Would you believe she has three young children and she's still the first to arrive at work? Besides, she's an officer in the army. A great physician - one of my stars."

"With all that to juggle," I say after the paragon leaves the room, "I hope your star never has a nervous breakdown."

There is always a trade-off. There is only a finite amount of energy to be had. How you choose to divide it up is your decision. The goal is to find your own drummer and then march to it, not to emulate imaginary Amazons on artificial pedestals.

Every seeming goddess has her own Achilles heel. Once women can say this out loud - and accept it inside, too - they can get busy trying to become the best imperfect human beings they know how to be.

We have to stick up for the sisters, making their kid's lunch, for the sisters chipping away at the glass ceiling, and for all of us sisters still too insecure to admit we have trouble doing both at once. Then sisterhood will be truly powerful.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT CHILD'S PLAY

Sir, - In your report of February 23, you quote Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs and former ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk as saying, "Israel should be encouraging the PA, as parents would utilize basic psychology" with their children, at a meeting of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

How demeaning this must be to the Palestinian to be considered as "children" by this senior official, apparently representing US policy in this area.

I cannot understand when, if ever, Israel became a "parent," of

SABBATH BEAUTY

Kiron.
The PLO either by birth or adoption. To further refer to a terrorist group which has still to prove that it truly seeks peace as "children" to be dealt with psychologically is rather difficult to grasp.

The PLO is not the same "child" who has been caught at the cookie jar. It is a worldwide terror organization with much blood, Israeli, American, and other on its hands.

Mr. Indyk's "psychology" would pardon the orphan pleading mercy for killing his parents.

ARTHUR HELLER

atmosphere which prevailed on the Sabbath. We always arranged our trips so as to spend Saturdays in Jerusalem, and be part of the unique experience of "Shabbat in Jerusalem."

We pray that the powers that be restore the quiet beauty of the Day of Rest, the idea of which, rooted in the Ten Commandments, is a major contribution to the entire world.

CATHERINE AND JOHN WILLIAMS
San Diego, California.

RED LINE

Sir, - Ehud Barak speaks of "separation" and Rehavam Ze'evi calls for "transfer." They both mean the same thing: Jews and Arabs cannot live together.

Shimon Peres says let us get rid of the yoke of ruling over Arabs. Where then is the red line - not the Green Line - for him? What about the western Galilee? The Negev?

Peace in this tiny land of Israel can only be when Jews and Arabs will live together and get along together under one central authority. You can even call it Palestine and choose between Bibi or Tibi to head it.

MOSHE BRODETZKY

Jerusalem.

ILLOGICAL POLITICS

Sir, - Your paper reported (Feb. 25) that activists of Peace Now were to have demonstrated at the grave site of Baruch Goldstein, calling for the removal of the memorial there. It also was noted that earlier in the week the High Court of Justice, in response to a Meretz MK's petition, had suggested that a compromise be reached.

It escapes me how members of the left-of-center camp can presume to act in defiance of the High Court's wishes, an institution they have elevated to sacrosanct status, when that is the very same issue - paying respect to the High Court's instructions - for which they berate their political opponents on the right.

Is there no logic in Israeli politics?

YISRAEL MEDAD

Shiloh.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Sir, - Martin Indyk, US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, in his foray into behavior modification techniques, urged Israel to use basic child psychology to encourage Palestinian compliance and good behavior by administering a parental "pat on the back."

Mr. Indyk probably flunked Psych. 101.

FAY DICKER

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 4, 1934, *The Palestine Post* reported that the festive Purim celebrations were marred by a Revisionist-Labor clash in which more than 24 persons were injured, before police reinforcements arrived to restore order.

50 years ago: On March 4, 1949, *The Palestine Post* reported

that David Ben-Gurion had formed a new government, a four-party coalition with Mapai holding seven out of the 12 seats, the Orthodox Bloc three and the Progressives and Sephardim one each.

25 years ago: On March 4, 1974, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Arab terrorists had

hijacked a British Airways DC10 out of Beirut, landed it at Schiphol Airport, outside Amsterdam, and set it on fire after freeing the 92 passengers and 10 crew members.

The last Israeli troops left the Suez Canal zone and took up new positions in Sinai.

Alexander Zvielli

هكذا من الأصل

– Sarah Hershenson

Weekender Food & Drink



Full steam ahead in the kitchen

By JUDITH WEINRAUB

Maybe the millennium is around the corner, but in some quarters, we're still looking backward a half century or so for inspiration. Fashion has dubbed pink and gray – the fabulous '50s combo – this year's hot colors. Women's skirts – long and slit, pleated and gathered – hark back to the '40s and '50s. And in the kitchen, some of the best-selling housewares are traditional toasters, mixers, waffle irons and blenders (technologically updated, of course).

The latest addition? Pressure cookers. In a range of prices – and with features the original makers didn't even dream of – pressure cookers have been highlighted in culinary catalogs and on TV shopping channels, where they're selling like gangbusters.

Along with them, hatch, are a slew of appropriate cookbooks – also updated to reflect today's tastes and palates. The latest, *The Pressured Cook* by Lorna Sass (due out this month from William Morrow), promises the eternally harried homemaker contemporary time-savers you only wish your mother had made. Like potato-cauliflower curry in nine minutes. Not exactly the bland, overdone food of pressure cookers gone by. These pressure cookers aren't the bulky ones used for home canning in the '30s either. Or the limited-production ones that Rosie the Riveter came home to in the '40s. Or the more plentiful and popular ones that came onto the market after World War II. These cookers are safer, more versatile and user-friendly.

And most of them don't have those scary jiggle-top imprecise mechanisms that, if left untended, could result in the proverbial pea-soup-all-over-the-ceiling. In their place are automatic lid-locking devices, accurate pressure gauges, simpler safety mechanisms to relieve pressure, nonstick surfaces and a range of sizes from a two-liter saute pan to a 12-liter pot.

The popularity, or not, of pressure cookers in the US reflects the kind of cooking going on at the time. Initially, pressure cookers were primarily used for canning, both commercial and domestic. At the 1939 World's Fair, Presto introduced a model designed for household use. And that year, according to American culinary historian Anne Mendelson, Irma S. Rombauer included pressure-cooking recipes in her *Streamlined Cooking* – they didn't appear in Rombauer's *Joy of Cooking* until 1943, when a home-canning push was on as part of the war effort.

The immediate postwar years were glory days. The 1951 edition of *Joy of Cooking*, says

Mendelson, included an entire section on pressure cooking. Things like oxtail soup, Spanish rice, dried legumes, vegetables, even pasta – though it's frightening to imagine elbow macaroni after five minutes in a pressure cooker.

The buzzwords promoting the cookers, then as now, were nutrition, speed and convenience (food is cooked in a third or less of the usual cooking time).

But pressure cookers have had another important use too – tenderizing. That's what they were often used for in the US during the war years when meat was rationed, as well as at any time better cuts of meat were hard to come by.

"They never went out of favor in Europe," says Peter Coletti, the president of the USA division of the Spanish firm Magefesa. "We're kind of spoiled in this country. There are a lot of places where the meat is not as good as it is here. You can tenderize anything in a pressure cooker."

As the '50s went on, times – and food fashions – changed. And with the greater availability of frozen foods and TV dinners, interest in the pressure cooker gradually fell off. When whole meals, including dessert, could be cooked on metal foil trays in the oven, there was less need for a potentially dangerous heavy pot that produced one food – even a one-dish meal.

It took the technological advances of the current generation of pressure cookers, the availability of different sizes and shapes and innovations such as low-fat browning to get interest in pressure cookers going again.

The increasing popularity of vegetarian food helped too. "Early on there were pockets of people who were interested – especially people on macrobiotic diets," says Rudy Keller, who heads the Swiss company Kuhn-Rikon in the US.

But now pressure cookers seem to be catching on. At the upscale end, Kuhn-Rikon, which has been doing business in the US since 1988, initially confronted resistance based on memories of the old pressure cookers.

"The general public said forget it," says Keller. "They said, 'Nobody will use this. It's dangerous. The food is mush.'"

But as greater understanding of the new pressure cookers gained ground, the business grew – last year, says Keller, by about 30%, and this January sales were double those of a year ago.

The Spanish firm Magefesa tried out the market about a decade ago too, but really got into it about five years ago. Now says Peter Coletti, its sales have at least doubled each year for the last three years, and its sales last year were more than five times that of the previous year.

The more moderately priced Presto pressure cookers have seen a resurgence of interest as well.

according to a company spokesman – particularly over the last four or five years.

The question still remains: Will home cooks adopt these new pressure cookers with the same enthusiasm as they had for electric mixers, or even food processors? That's hard to tell.

Cookware guru Chuck Williams, who's been watching the industry since he founded Williams-Sonoma in 1956 (and who remembers being scared of his grandmother's pressure cooker when it was building up steam) thinks they're here to stay. "They're so much easier to use," he says. "And much safer. They're not just a fad."

But remember the fate of microwave cookbooks. "People predicted we'd all be cooking in the microwave – and now everybody uses them for heating coffee and popping popcorn," says Laura Shapiro, a senior writer at *Newsweek* who is currently working on a book on American women and cooking in the post-war years. "A pressure cooker is one of those devices you have to be converted to, and it's never been easy to do a conversion in the American kitchen. Once you learn how to do it, then it's second nature. But the mental change is extraordinary... Even refrigerators didn't leap into the kitchen. And there's nothing that more defines the kitchen today, yet it wasn't an instantaneous change."

Even so, there is a ready – unexpected – market that at least will live out the rest of this year: the Y2K people getting ready for Armageddon – though admittedly they're more interested in canning than in preparing meals in a hurry. "They call and ask, 'What's your largest pressure cooker?'" says Keller. "Then they go into the garage and stash food away."

The recipes below are all taken from *The Pressured Cook* by Lorna Sass (Morrow, \$19.95).

BEAN SOUP WITH SAUSAGE

1 Tbsp. olive oil
3 cups coarsely chopped onions
1 Tbsp. minced garlic
2 tsp. whole cumin seeds
1 Tbsp. dried oregano
1 Tbsp. sweet paprika
4 cups water
4 cups chicken or turkey broth or additional water
2 1/2 cups black beans (available at health food stores), picked over and rinsed
1 meaty turkey drumstick
1/2 kilo sausages, halved lengthwise, then cut into thin slices
2 large green bell peppers, seeded and diced
3 large bay leaves
2 Tbsp. dry sherry
1/4 to 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes (optional) salt to taste
chopped coriander (for optional garnish)
diced tomato or avocado (for

optional garnish)

Over medium-high heat, heat the oil in the cooker. Add the onions and cook, stirring frequently, for 2 minutes. Add the garlic, cumin seeds and oregano, and cook until the onions are soft, about 2 mins. longer. Turn off the heat and stir in the paprika. Transfer the onion mixture to a small bowl and set aside.

Add the water and broth and turn the heat to high. Stir well to scrape up any browned bits stuck to the bottom of the cooker. Add the beans, turkey, sausage, peppers and bay leaves. Lock the lid in place.

Over high heat, bring to high pressure. Reduce the heat just enough to maintain high pressure and cook for 22 mins.

Quick-release the pressure by placing the cooker under cold running water. Remove the lid, tilting it away from you to allow excess steam to escape. If the beans are not tender, return the soup to high pressure for 5 mins. longer.

When the beans are tender, remove the bay leaves and turkey. Stir in the onion mixture and sherry. If the soup isn't spicy enough, add some crushed red pepper flakes. Add salt, if needed.

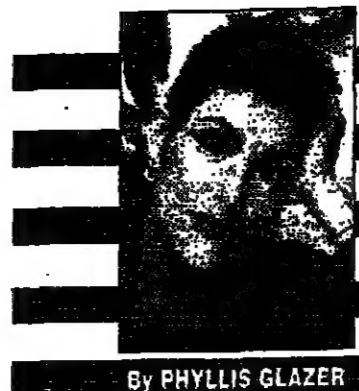
Boil over medium heat, uncovered, stirring occasionally, for 5 mins. Meanwhile, chop the meat from the turkey drumstick (there won't be much) and return it to the soup.

If you plan to serve the soup immediately and would like it thicker, mash about 1 cupful of the beans against the side of the cooker and vigorously blend the mash into the soup. Otherwise, leave the soup on the stove with the lid ajar for 30 mins. and it will thicken on its own. Garnish individual portions with coriander and diced tomato or avocado, if you wish. (Serves 7-8)

POT ROAST WITH CARROTS AND POTATOES

To produce a flavorful gravy, lightly brown the chopped vegetables at the start to bring out their sweetness, and puree them in the broth after cooking. This approach creates such a tasty gravy that it's not necessary to brown the roast.

1 Tbsp. butter or vegetable oil
1 cup coarsely chopped onions
1/2 cup peeled and diced carrots
1/2 cup diced celery
1 1/2 kilo boneless beef chuck roast, well trimmed
4 small cloves garlic, peeled and cut into thin slivers, plus 2 tsp. minced garlic to finish
salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1/2 cup dry red wine or beef broth
1 1/2 cups beef broth
2 large bay leaves
1 tsp. dried thyme leaves
2 kilos potatoes, peeled and cubed
1/2 kilo carrots, peeled and cut



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

boysenberries, strawberries, blueberries, black currant, cherries, orange and rose blossoms, cardamom, myrtle leaves, olive leaves and spices, and is created by Kibbutz Amiad for Segal.

While at first I thought it was just vinegar with the addition of some berry extract, it turns out I was wrong – the production process begins with macerating berries in wine vinegar for 10 days, adding blackberry wine and a selection of spice infusions before a further fermentation. Use it sparingly in vinaigrette, soups, sauces and salads. It even comes with a small (English and Hebrew) recipe booklet. Thanks, Segal!

NIS 14 to 15 for a 200-ml. bottle.

More Kit Kat (Good)

If you like Kit Kat candy bars, you'll be happy to know that you're not alone. Kit Kat is considered one of the top candy bars in the world (in Britain it's been the top for 12 years running). This time, the Nestle company is giving us a bonus – instead of four-finger chocolate-covered wafer bars, the company is offering us five-finger bars (60 gr.) for a limited time only.

For trivia lovers, Kit Kat has been around since 1935, when it was named after the Kit Kat Club. In Britain, 8 billion Kit Kats are sold annually, which means that there are 47 packs eaten every second or 2,820 per minute (very useful information). The bars are also manufactured in Germany, Australia, Malaysia, China, Canada, and Brazil. Recommended price for

the five-finger pack is NIS 3.30.

Chocolate Nuggets (Good/Okay)

I must admit that I have a soft spot in my heart for Hershey's chocolate. I grew up on Hershey's cocoa and chocolate kisses, and when I was in elementary school, the company sent me a box with samples explaining how chocolate is made (which was a big hit with the other kids). Although my favorite candy bar as a child was Nestle's Crunch, Hershey's was always considered to have fine chocolate.

I've just received two new Hershey's products. "Chocolate Nuggets," which are bits of chocolate individually wrapped, and "Cookies n' Creme" nuggets, which are white chocolate with ground-up chocolate Oreo-type cookies. We liked the milk chocolate ones, but found the cookies n' creme one too sweet and a little cloying. Each to their own. A package of 140 gr. nuggets is NIS 11.90. They're good for special treats for kids (of all ages).

Labenit (Very Good)

Yotvata's new "Labenit" – another form of buttermilk – enriched with calcium has only 48 calories in 100 gr. and 1.5 gr. of fat. The consistency is good, as is the flavor, and you can use it for baking or just drinking as is. I'm only sorry they've joined the companies who now sell their milk and other dairy products with the reclosable cap which adds more pollution to the environment. The 500-ml carton sells for NIS 3.70.



3 eggs, beaten
1 1/2 tsp. salt

Put the cornmeal and 1 cup of the milk in a heavy saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring in the rest of the milk in cupfuls as the mixture thickens. Stir in the margarine. Pour the mixture into another pan and refrigerate for about a half hour or until lukewarm. Preheat oven to hot (about 205°). Add the salt and eggs to the cornmeal mixture and beat the batter thoroughly. Pour it into a deep, well-greased casserole or 2-liter baking dish. Bake for 30 mins. or until the spoon bread turns a golden brown on top. (Serves 6).

The exact quantity of the flour was omitted from Erez Komarovsky's Cinnamon recipe you gave last month. Please advise the exact quantity as it sounds delicious.

Shulamit Ravinsky, Jerusalem

The amount of flour missing in the recipe is 500 gr. Sorry!

Avocados are delicious, nutritious, inexpensive, and have a long season.

Do you have any recipes other

than the usual guacamole? I have seen recipes for cold avocado soup, but summer is not the best time for this fruit. Do you have any recipes for hot soups that can be served in winter?

Esther Herskovic, Jerusalem

All the recipes for avocado soup that I know are based on parve chicken soup powder and cream, or chicken-soup powder and parve cream, neither combination of which I find edible.

Instead why not try making an Avocado Vinaigrette, which keeps for a couple of days in the refrigerator, and can be used on steamed chilled vegetables or fresh ones:

1 large ripe avocado, peeled and cubed
2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard with seeds (but no preservative)
juice of one large lemon
2 Tbsp. brandy or sherry wine
1 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
6 Tbsp. corn or almond oil
salt and white pepper to taste
Mix all the ingredients together in a blender until smooth. Store in the refrigerator for one hour before using.
May be prepared a day ahead.
-P.G.

RISOTTO WITH GREEN PEAS

1 Tbsp. butter or olive oil
1 1/2 cups chopped leeks or onions
1 1/2 cups rice
1/2 cup dry white wine, dry vermouth or dry sherry
4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
1 tsp. salt, or to taste
300 grams frozen peas (rinse away any ice crystals)
3/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese, plus more to pass at the table
freshly ground black pepper to taste

Heat the butter in the cooker over medium-high heat. When it begins to foam, add the leeks and cook for 1 min., stirring frequently. Stir in the rice and coat the grains with the butter. Add the wine and cook over high heat, stirring, until it evaporates, about 1 min. Add the broth and salt. Lock the lid in place. Over high heat, bring to high pressure. Lower the heat enough to maintain high pressure and cook for 4 mins. Quick-release the pressure by setting the cooker under cold running water. Remove the lid, tilting it away from you to allow any excess steam to escape.

Boil over medium-high heat, stirring constantly, until the rice is tender but still chewy and the risotto loses most of its souppiness and becomes creamy and thick, 3-4 mins. During the final minute, stir in the peas and Parmesan. Spoon the risotto into large shallow bowls and sprinkle with a few twists of black pepper. Pass extra Parmesan at the table. (Serves 3-4)

(The Washington Post)



Come springtime, nature lovers flock to Mt. Gilboa to witness its riot of colorful flowers.

(Werner Braum)

The Gilboa in bloom

As I walked through a forest on the Mt. Gilboa ridge on a cloudy morning in late February, four gazelles leaped across the trail. Muted sunlight slanted under heavy cloud cover to softly brighten the flowers that were at last beginning to bloom: red anemones, mandrakes, asphodel, fennel, billowing bushes of yellow Jerusalem spurge, a few orchids, and pink and violet cyclamen peeking through the rock fissures studding the rust-red soil.

The star of the floral show, however, Haynei's iris (or the Gilboa iris, as it is commonly called) had not yet opened, due probably to the late rains. In the coming weeks, the irises and tulips will also open.

This intense burst of blooming brought on by the sun's warmth, this rapid succession of diverse flowers, will last but through a short spring which will be followed by brown dryness. The very shortness of the spring seems to intensify its splashes of color.

A beautiful scenic road (route 667) runs the length of the Gilboa ridge, starting just east of the settlement of Jezreel and the Jezreel Junction, and climbing east toward Ma'aleh Gilboa. Along the Gilboa ridge, which rises like the prow of a wave-tossed ship, at the northeastern tip of the Samaritan range, every shift in angle seems to reveal a different yet equally amazing landscape.

The peaks punctuating the Gilboa ridge stand only around 500 meters high, but seem much higher — given the fact that the adjacent valleys are below sea level and the steepness of their slopes accentuates their height.

The road passes through beautiful JNF-planted pine forests and is dotted with picnic areas, play-

Close Encounters

By Allan Rabinowitz

grounds and scenic turn-offs, which include Mt. Gaborim, Mt. Shaul and Mt. Lapidim. The forests are laced with hiking trails, both gentle, circular routes, and more challenging one-way hikes.

Nature lovers from around Israel will crowd the slopes around Mt. Barkan in March to enjoy, study and photograph the richly purple (and occasionally yellow) rare Gilboa irises. This iris is related to eight other species found in the Middle East, all of which are endemic to Israel. The bulbs were uprooted for export to Europe and almost disappeared, but the plant is now protected.

The Gilboa iris grows almost exclusively in these hills, with the greatest concentration around Mt. Barkan. An "Iris Trail" runs between Mt. Barkan and a parking lot just to the east, an easy stroll of 20-45 minutes. A separate 45-minute trail loops around Mt. Barkan.

It is almost impossible to capture on camera the variegated tapestries of this area, where the foliage of the Mediterranean region meets that of the high arid steppe.

To the west, the arm of distant Mt. Carmel stretches toward the Mediterranean Sea, while to the east, across the Jordan Valley, rise the buckled slopes of Jordan, the area of biblical Gilead.

To the north and northeast stretch the Golan Heights and, on a clear day, the snow-capped summit of Mt. Hermon is visible. Immediately below the Gilboa to

the north spreads the Jezreel Valley, with its plethora of springs, fields, fishponds, veteran settlements, verdancy, and enough biblical sites to make it the original Bible belt. Mt. Tabor, Nazareth, Mt. Moreh, Beit She'an and more — from Mt. Gilboa you can take them all in.

To the south, too, biblical importance prevails. The farthest hilltop on the southern horizon is Mt. Ebal, which looms over the biblical Shechem, modern Nablus, on the spine of the Samaritan hills.

But today's political reality overlays the ancient landscape. A pale line cuts across the southern length of the Gilboa — the old dirt patrol road marking the pre-'67 border with Jordan. Old trenches and positions can still be seen amid the flower-strewn hills, and much of the area across that dirt road is now under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

The peaks on the Gilboa ridge seen from Mt. Barkan are named for King Saul and his family. It was somewhere along this massif that Saul fought a desperate battle, when "the men of Israel fled before the Philistines, and fell down slain on Mount Gilboa.... And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mt. Gilboa (I Samuel 31:2, 8)."

David, in response to Saul's defeat, declared, "You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain upon you (II Samuel 1:21)." This became part

of one of the most famous elegies in history ("How the mighty are fallen!"), and also accurately describes the region, which has no springs.

Ma'aleh Gilboa, a religious kibbutz east of Mt. Barkan along the ridge road, offers a self-guiding nature trail through the forest and scrub of the Gilboa ridge (nominal entrance fee, including a self-guiding pamphlet). Among the irises and other flowers, you'll find a Byzantine-age wine press (one of many found on the Gilboa), a cave, a cistern, ancient terracing and a shepherd's watchtower. You'll also see, in sharp contrast, pre-'67 border trenches. (The kibbutz operates a guest house).

However you do it, as a day trip or an overnight stay, as an easy stroll or a strenuous hike, the explosion of vibrant forms and colors will greet you on Mt. Gilboa, and then disappear.

Perhaps it was after gazing at such an intensely colorful hillside in spring that the prophet wrote, "All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field; The grass withers, the flower fades, when the spirit of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people is like the grass (Isaiah 40: 6-7)."

The scenic drive along the Gilboa ridge is accessible by road from the west, near the Jezreel Junction; from the north near Kibbutz Beit Alfa; and from the east at the junction in the Jordan Valley just south of Sdei Trumot. At Kibbutz Ma'aleh Gilboa, the Margot Bagilboa Country Inn also administers the self-guided nature trail. Call, (06) 653-9500.

Allan Rabinowitz is a licensed tour guide. He can be reached at allan@jpost.co.il

Weekender Travel



'Wish you were here': The peaks of the Gilboa ridge are only around 500 meters high — but they seem much taller, since the adjacent valleys are below sea level. (Israel Sinai/JNF Photo Archives)



Star of the floral show: the Gilboa iris

(Israel Sinai/JNF Photo Archives)

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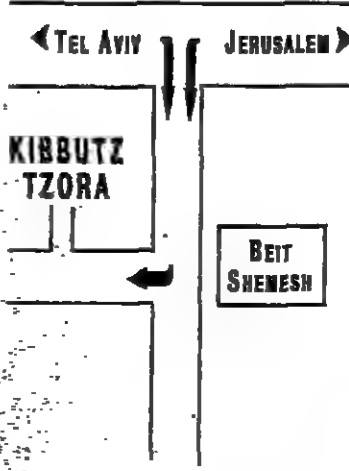
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Weekender Leisure

Smile – and say 'Woof'



A Labrador retriever leads a blind schnauzer across the road. (Photo by Edgar Hirschbain)

By DAVID BRAUNER

From early boyhood, Edgar "Eddie" Hirschbain has had two great passions in his life: dogs and photography. But only in the last few years has one of Israel's most respected veteran photographers and cinematographers found the time to enshrine his love of dogs in pictures.

Hirschbain was born in Tuzla in Bosnia in 1919. At the time the town had about 20,000 inhabitants, of whom 3,000-4,000 were Jewish. Hirschbain's father, a soldier in the Austro-Hungarian army, met his mother while posted in Tuzla.

In his small home office crammed with pictures, files and a modern computer, Hirschbain shows me an old family picture taken by his Uncle Joshko, a keen amateur photographer. The photo shows Joshko's wife, baby girl, huge German shepherd dog and hunting rifle against a wild forest background.

Influenced by his uncle, Hirschbain took his first pictures at seven years of age.

In 1937 Hirschbain went to Czechoslovakia to study machine engineering. The German invasion of the Sudetenland in 1938 abruptly ended his formal education. Back in Yugoslavia, he successfully trained as an army pilot and, after his discharge, he took up photojournalism.

During the Second World War, Hirschbain endured forced labor in Tuzla. He fled with his mother, disguised as a Moslem woman, to an area under Italian Army control, where he joined the Yugoslav partisans led by Marshal Tito.

After being wounded, he was evacuated to a camp in occupied southern Italy, where he was reunited with his wife. When Moshe Sherok (later Sharett) showed up offering Jews "certificates," Hirschbain made aliya to Palestine in 1944.

By 1948, Hirschbain was freelancing for Time-Life and living with his family in a top-floor apartment on Jerusalem's Shama Street. When the Ben-Yehuda Street bomb went off, the roof of

their apartment caved in. Miraculously, no one was hurt. Hirschbain hastily put on trousers, and ran out in slippers and pajama jacket with his camera.

"One doesn't think when one photographs. I was risking my life to photograph the white dove against the rubble. I had to climb up two stories, very unstable, because it was against a white background lower down."

Not long after, he again narrowly escaped death in taking his fiery pictures of the Jewish Agency car bombing. His famous "white dove" photograph of Ben-Yehuda Street was later shown at "The Best Photos of the Year 1948" exhibition held in New York.

IN 1950, the Jewish National Fund commissioned Hirschbain to fly with scriptwriter Michael Elkins (later the BBC Israel correspondent) to Aden to film the story of the Yemenite Jews in a documentary called *Flight to Freedom*.

A British patrol accompanied them to a trail used by Jews near the Yemeni border. The Jews brought them through the desert to Sana'a. "I must tell you," says Hirschbain, characteristically closing one eye. "I thought I was making the longest trek of my life." Yet, to his amazement he saw children of four or five, who walked through "this desert for hours every day."

Between the years 1952 and

On Camera



(Above) Lodo, a Labrador retriever, catches a Frisbee; (Left) Edgar "Eddie" Hirschbain, February 1999

1976, Hirschbain worked as an accredited NBC-TV cameraman, and covered the civil war in Cyprus, the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War. Several of his documentary films, including *In Search of History*, made with Rolf Kneller, about Yigael Yadin's historic archaeological finds, won worldwide acclaim and international awards.

Throughout his long career, Hirschbain, the machine engineer, has found it necessary at times to custom-build his own accessories and tools. For his film *A City Called Eilat*, he converted a round-shaped car-engine differential into a waterproof camera housing for the underwater shots. The footage was so successful that he made a second film called *Red Sea Ballet*, brilliantly edited by the late Dan Perry, to fit the music of Debussy's *La Mer*. The film was shown on television all over the world.

Also a teacher, he lectured on documentary filmmaking in the Fine Arts Department of Tel Aviv University for 12 years. Many of his students are today's top television cameramen.

His approach to teaching "was to give them the tools" without any reservations. "I always believe that if you know something, give it to somebody else, so he can make something of it."

AT LAST we turn to dogs. Hirschbain's father suffered from tuberculosis, so the family was advised to move to Alexandria, Egypt, for the climate. "When I saw the stray dogs there, my heart bled," Eddie, just seven years old, started feeding dogs with his school sandwiches, then bringing them home.

He had 10 dog houses.

Dog photography and his projected book *Dogs and Friends*, have been at the center of his work since his retirement from teaching in 1989 at the age of 70. Hirschbain spent two and a half years on a voluntary basis photographing police dogs in training for nine instruction manuals. "I would climb a tree, when I wanted to show a dog barking up it from above. I would do anything. I enjoyed it. What's more, I know how dogs behave, and can anticipate how they will move."

Hirschbain has a US Trademark on his "KATCH-KLEAN" invention for catching doggie "land mines" before they hit the ground. The gadget owes much of its success to Hirschbain's German shepherd, Vuk ("Wolf"), "my faithful dog, friend and collaborator."

His love of dogs is palpable. The day in 1995 he finally agreed that his beloved Vuk had to be put down because of illness, Hirschbain suffered a heart attack. Hirschbain has not had a dog of his own since, because he does not want the animal to suffer the loss of an old friend. So today, he takes care of a blind neighbor's seeing-eye dog when she is away, and feeds the local cats every day.

Your photography questions and comments are welcome. Contact David Brauner, e-mail: morris@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line) or fax 02-563-7792 or c/o Photo Archives, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000.



Siesta after feeding: A three-month-old baby deer adopted by a basset hound

Pessah outfits for the young set



Flair

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Just as romance is coming back into fashion for adults, it's also coming back into junior styling. Not that it was ever completely out. Anyone visiting an Orthodox community on a Shabbat or holiday will see lots of little girls in frilled dresses with puffed sleeves, Peter Pan collars, and pin-tucked or smocked bodices. Some of the little boys wear dark velvet pants and a waistcoat teamed with a snow-white shirt and a bow-tie. The same goes for children in church or at a Moslem wedding.

They all look gorgeous. For a long time though, it was rare to see these dressy outfits with "Made in Israel" labels. The "kid stuff" produced here was more of a sporny nature, and the more elegant lines were imported from the US, England and Italy.

But things are changing, as an attractive middle road between sporty and special-occasion wear is emerging.



The latest fashions from children's designer Hadas Sternberg (Dan Levi)

Among the local designers focusing on children's wear is Hadas Sternberg, who runs a boutique on Shabazi Street in Tel

Aviv's Neveh Tzedek neighborhood. Also expanding its children's lines is veteran local manufacturer Honigman. Mostly mix-and-match separates, the clothes are as good in quality and style as any of the expensive imports displayed in malls around the country. With Pessah just around the corner, parents are not only shopping for food, but also for clothes for their children to wear to the Seder and for the rest of the festival.

Because the weather has been playing havoc with us, many stores are featuring between-season wear, and some are carrying both summer and winter fashion.

If you want to be patriotic, now's the time to buy blue-and-white. But if that's not a consideration, take a look at the Mothercare range of children's clothes in Hamashbir.



For something a little less expensive, try the stores in religious neighborhoods. Truth be told, they carry the largest variety of affordable children's clothes, simply because there are so many large families in these areas and parents can't make the money stretch for all their children if prices are high.

Bridge A hand that suits Purim

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

North
♠ K Q 10 9 8 7 3
♥ 5 2
♦ J 6
♣ 4 2

West East
♠ 4 ♠ A 6 5 2
♥ K Q 10 8 ♥ 6 4
♦ 7 ♦ A 9 5 2
♣ A Q 8 7 6 5 3 ♣ J 10 9

South
♠ J
♥ A J 9 7 3
♦ K Q 10 8 4 3
♣ K

West North East South
2♣ 2♠ 3♠ 3♥
4♠ pass 3♠ 4♥
double (all pass)

Opening lead: ♠A

Today's deal may seem like a Purim joke, but it really happened. It took place in a high-class invitational tournament, in the Hague in January.

East dealt and passed and South opened the bidding one heart. This was a real Purim bid, since her diamonds were longer and, therefore, she should have opened one diamond. But North-South were playing a bidding system in which the shorter suit is bid before the longer.

West overcalled in clubs and North bid two spades. When East raised clubs, South bid her diamonds and West competed to four

clubs. At this point North made a cautious pass, having heard her partner bid both red suits, and South now came back into the auction with a daring bid of four hearts. When West doubled, North should probably have corrected to four spades, but she passed and four hearts doubled became the final contract.

West led the ace of clubs and at trick two continued with a low club.

Declarer discarded the jack of spades as East won the trick. East played a trump to the nine and 10 and West returned a spade to East's ace. South ruffed and led a diamond to the jack and ace. East returned a second trump. South won the ace and was now down to two trumps, the jack and seven.

All her diamonds were high and there were only two trumps outstanding, the king and queen. She had already lost four tricks and now had a choice. She could continue diamonds and concede two more trump tricks, for a score of down three, minus 800, or she could lead a trump, hoping that the king and queen were divided between East and West, and then she would claim the rest of the tricks for down two, minus 500.

Declarer decided to play for the latter, and she led a trump.

Disaster. West won and cashed his other trump and tabbed his hand, all high clubs. Declarer took a total of two tricks and the result was down eight, 2,300 points to East-West, who are still celebrating.

Matthew Granovetter can be reached by e-mail at matt@bridgetoday.com

Chess The rampage at Pamplona

By NIGEL SHORT

SHOULD this column appear more inane than usual, I plead for forgiveness, because the recent birth of my son has rendered sleep more a dimly recalled concept than an actual experience. My mental faculties, insufficient at the best of times for such troublesome tasks as writing coherent sentences, have been thus additionally burdened.

If you are the sort of individual who likes a morning jog, there are perhaps better places to do it than in Pamplona, Navarra, during the encierro. Running through narrow streets in the company of large snorting animals with horns might seem like a good idea after a bottle or two of vino, but it is most assuredly hazardous for one's health.

In this year's Pamplona chess tournament it has been not so much the bulls as Alexander Morozevich from Russia who has been rampaging and goring everyone in sight. After an uninterrupted string of successes it is clear that he is simply unstoppable against players of a certain (fairly high) level. The only comparable phenomenon I can think of is that of Mikhail Tal during the late 1950s. Then, Grandmasters and routine woodpushers alike were swept aside by the Latvian's surging riotous tactical genius.

Alexander Morozevich has a unique style, but it owes something to the influence of the 19th-century Russian great Chigorin. He shares with Tal an exceptional combinative vision which can bring life to the most apparently innocuous of positions.

White: Miguel Cordoba Illescas
Black: Alexander Morozevich
Pamplona, 29.12.98

1. d4 d5 2. e4 e6 3. e3 Nf6 4. Bd3 e5! A startling move which it appears, at first glance, that Cordoba Illescas overlooked. But the Spanish champion is nothing if he is not prepared and I believe he intended to lure his opponent into making what he imagined would prove a premature advance. 5. Nc3 5... dxe5 dxe4! 6. Bxe4 Qxd1+ 7. Kxd1 Ng4 is the justification of Black's bold lunge. 5... e4 6. Be2 Bde7 7. f3 exf3. Much more sensible than allowing White to capture on e4 as Kramnik did in a similar position against Chernin. I suspect that Cordoba Illescas was hoping for the same misjudgment. 8. Nxf3 0-0 9. 0-0 Re8 10. Bg3. A clear sign that White has abandoned

any thoughts of an initiative. 10... h6 11. Qb3 b6 12. cxd5 cxd5 13. Kh1 Be6 14. Qa4 Nbd7 15. Qe6?? The queen is leading an unsuitably itinerant lifestyle bordering on vagrancy. It was time to return home with 15. Bd2 a6 16. Rael b5 17. Qd1 although Black already stands better. 15... Re8! 16. Bd2. Having taken the trouble to move the queen so many times, why not 16. Qa7? The answer is not completely obvious but I believe that Morozevich intended to embroil his opponent in an obscure tactical skirmish where the lines are by no means forced, for example 16... Ne4 and the variation might continue 17. Bxe4 (17. Nxe4 dxe4 18. Bxe4 Bc4) 17... dxe4 18. Nxe4 Bb8 19. Qb7 Nf8 threatening both Re7 and Bd5. White is then forced to retreat 20. Ne2 but then 20... Bd5 21. Qa6 Rxe3 gives Black more than adequate compensation for the pawn. However the move played is no improvement. 16... Ne4! 17. Qx7 Rax8 18. Qb7 Nc5! 19. dxe5 Nxe5 20. Qe6 Nxe3 21. Qb5 Ne5 22. Rad1. Cordoba Illescas is striving constantly to normalise the position and keep it within his usual frames of reference. He does not succeed. (see diagram)

22... Be8! A wicked retreat aimed at embarrassing the misplaced white queen. 23. Nxd5 23... b6 24. Qe6 Re8! 25. Qxd5 Bxf1 26. Rxf1 Ne6 was perhaps a touch



White (Cordoba Illescas)
The position after Cordoba Illescas's 21st move

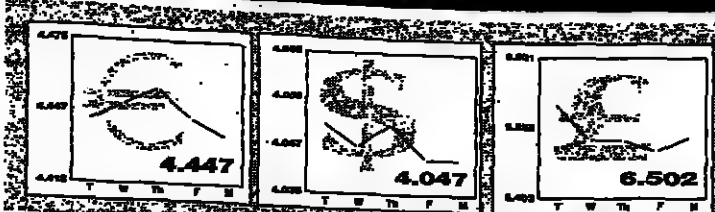
more resilient but White is surely lost anyway. 23... Bx6 24. Qxb6 Bxf1 25. Rxf1 Rxa2 26. Qxd8 Rxd8 27. Bc3 Ne4 28. Bb4 Re5. The endgame offers no respite. 29. Nc3 29... Bxd5 30. Bc3 Rd1! 31. Rxd1 Nf2+ 32. Kg1 Nxd1 white more material. 33... Nxc3 34. Bxc3 Bxd4 31. Nxd4 Re8 32. Nf5 Re5. The pawns are falling like ripe cherries. 33. Nde6 Rxc3 34. h3 Rxc2 White resigned.

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هكذا من الأصل

Thursday,
March 4, 1999

Today's shekel



In brief

ForSoft wins \$6m. contract with US operator

ForSoft, a specialist in information technology and systems integration services, has been awarded a \$6 million contract to develop software and solutions in the client server environment for a leading US information technology services provider. The 22-month contract is the first that ForSoft, which is part of the Formula Group, has signed with a company outside of Israel and marks its first step into the international arena. The name of the company has not yet been released. The Herzliya-based company, which is traded on NASDAQ, also revealed that it is now in intensive negotiations to buy two US IT technologies in the region of between \$5m. and \$25m. to expand its presence in the US. At least one of the deals should be signed by April.

"This contract is of great significance to ForSoft," said Emanuel Cohen, the company's CEO. "It represents our first extensive penetration into the US market for the development of solutions in the client server environment and demonstrates the continuing success of our strategy for international business expansion."

Meir Moshe, CFO of ForSoft said the Israeli market is now too small for the firm, which saw sales of some \$51m. in 1998.

Nicky Blackburn

Rabin Medical Center, Gil Dankner lock horns

The Rabin Medical Center and businessman Gil Dankner have locked horns over a 14-dunam parcel of land in Petah Tikva across the street from Beilinson Hospital on which Dankner intends to build a giant commercial and shopping complex. Rabin Medical Center director Dr. Dan Oppenheim, who held a press conference yesterday to arouse public opposition to the project, said it would prevent the hospital from expanding to meet the needs of patients in the future, and that the traffic and noise would disrupt hospital functioning.

A Dankner spokesman countered that the plot is owned privately by the family, and that the hospital had previously turned down the company's offer to sell the land to the hospital. He added that the \$120 million facility will include a small hotel, clinics, a pharmacy, offices related to medical services and convention facilities. Petah Tikva municipal committees are to have the final say.

Judy Siegel

Shareholders OK Edusoft sale

EduSoft's shareholders have voted overwhelmingly in favor of selling the company to the Canadian education corporation, Cinar. The move comes after Degen Systems sold EduSoft, which produces multimedia English-learning products, to Cinar for \$40.2 million in December of last year. Cinar plans to turn the company, which is now traded on NASDAQ, back into a private company. More than 99 percent of shareholders approved the Plan of Arrangement and the deal is expected to be closed in mid March after approval has been received from the Tel Aviv-Jaffa District Court.

Menachem Hasari, president and CEO of EduSoft, which is based in Rosh Ha'ayin, said he was looking forward to joining Cinar. "EduSoft will grow and we'll have more development projects in cooperation with Cinar. Since Cinar has more resources than our current parent company, we will have more resources, more development and more marketing power," he said.

Cinar is an integrated entertainment and education company involved in the development of family programming.

Nicky Blackburn

Amdocs buys Canadian firm for \$400m.

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Amdocs, a subsidiary of the Aureq Group, has acquired Architel Systems Corporation, a provider of service provisioning and activation systems, for \$400 million in stock, the company yesterday announced.

The transaction values Architel at about \$24.52 per share, some 56 percent higher than its Tuesday's \$15.67 closing price on Nasdaq.

Amdocs said the deal will allow it to enhance its ability to provide end-to-end solutions and broaden

its activities to other fields.

The company said it expects to close the deal, which still needs to receive shareholders' approval, as early as June. It added that it expects the transaction to break even by September and to add to its earnings in the next fiscal year.

Under the terms of the agreement, share owners of Canada's Architel will receive shares that would be exchanged into Amdocs shares.

Following the completion of the deal, Toronto-based Architel will become a division of Amdocs

which will continue to service its old clients. The division will focus on product development and business expansion, facilitating the expansion of Amdocs's presence in the Canadian telecommunications market. The deal was brokered by Goldman Sachs & Co. on behalf of Amdocs and Morgan Stanley which advised Architel.

"Bringing our two companies together will allow us to provide an end-to-end solution to customers that will be unparalleled in the telecommunications industry," said

Tony van Marken, Architel's president and CEO.

David Curry, Architel senior vice president and co-founder, added that merging Amdocs's management, customer care and billing with those of Architel's puts the company well ahead of the market in addressing customer needs.

Amdocs, which raised \$234m. on the NYSE last June, is one of Israel's less known public companies, despite the large scale of its activities and the fact that it has been operating for 17 years.

Amdocs, which sells billing and customer software to telecommunications companies, is registered in the UK's Channel Islands but does most of its development work here.

Architel develops markets and advanced operations support systems for the global telecommunications services. The firm's main product "automation service activation program" is used by telecommunications service providers. The firm reported net income of \$152m. on revenues of \$333.4m. for the fiscal year that ended September 1998.



Pension reform signed

Histaadrut Chairman Amir Peretz (left) and Finance Minister Meir Sheetrit yesterday toast the signing of an agreement in Jerusalem to gradually shift all public-sector pension financing from the national budget to the private-sector formula, whereby pensions are accumulated by contributions from both employers and employees.

(Scov 80)

Pepsico buys 50% of Elite subsidiary

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Pepsico Frito-Lay, a subsidiary of the world's second-largest beverage company Pepsico Inc., has signed an agreement with Elite Industries to buy 50 percent of its salty snack unit Elite Food for \$10 million, the company announced yesterday.

The deal, which was expected for some time, has established a special mechanism to resolve disputes in case of disagreements between the two sides.

Erez Vigodman, Elite Industries CEO, said that by using Pepsico's know-how the company will succeed in strengthening the position of its salty snack subsidiary.

Elite Food develops, manufactures and distributes salty snacks. The company, which had sales of some NIS 160m. last year, employs 260 workers.

The company has been cooperating with Pepsico for the last nine years manufacturing its Fritos and Doritos snacks for the

local market.

According to the company its market share is some 27% of the domestic market.

Elite Industries is Israel's largest chocolate and sweets manufacturer and second-largest food and beverages manufacturer. The recent deal is in line with the business strategy of Michael Strauss, the firm's main shareholder.

The Strauss family, which completed the takeover of Elite last June, owns Nahariya's Strauss

Dairy, Israel's leading ice cream manufacturer.

In the past Strauss has stated that he supports the creating of separate companies for Elite's key businesses in coffee and salt snacks.

IMF: Shekel 'sustainable' in medium term

The shekel appears to have reached a sustainable level for the medium term after a sharp depreciation at the end of last year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in report released yesterday.

"The impression conveyed... is that the recent depreciation of the shekel may have brought its real effective exchange rate close to a level that may be sustainable over the medium term," the IMF said.

The shekel in 1998 lost a fifth of its value against the basket of currencies to which it is pegged, most of it in the fourth quarter.

The IMF said its view on the shekel was supported by staff estimates of the fundamental equilibrium exchange rate, which compares a country's underlying current account with its savings-investment norm. The IMF said, however, that there was room for a wide margin of error in its calculations. It added that other factors such as the peace process and wide-scale immigration were not taken into account.

The IMF also said a study it conducted showed that Israel's vulnerability to external shocks was limited. "Export growth has been sustained at a satisfactory rate, even in the face of weakness of foreign demand, and the external current account has tended to narrow to a level that appears manageable."

Against that, the IMF said Israel had \$23 billion in short- and medium-term foreign debt coming due over the next year, equal to 110% of foreign currency reserves. (Reuters)

Shippers to government: End stevedores' strike

BY NICKY BLACKBURN

The Shipowners Association has appealed to the government to settle a slowdown strike at the seaports of Ashdod and Haifa, which it claims is costing businesses hundreds of thousands of dollars a day.

The strike over salaries began at 2 p.m. on Sunday, when the country's 2,700 dockworkers began working at 10 percent capacity.

There are 23 ships stranded outside Ashdod Port and another nine outside Haifa.

"This is costing business hundreds of thousands of dollars," said association spokeswoman Margalit Toledano. "Every day a ship is stuck in port costs over \$10,000. The strike will have a negative effect on foreign trade. People can't deliver their goods as promised and

we can't keep to timetables, which is a very important part of our contract with ship owners."

Toledano said the Shipowners Association is particularly concerned about perishable goods, such as fruit and vegetables, that have been held up by the strike. These could start to rot if they are not unloaded soon.

The association has written to Transportation Minister Shaul Yablon and to Ports and Railways Authority Director-General Gideon Shamir asking them to resolve the strike, but so far, according to Toledano, no action has been taken.

"We want the government to step in. It has to sit with the dockworkers and find some kind of solution," she said.

Haim Reyman, general secretary of the National Union of Transportation Workers, said the union plans to continue striking until the Ports Authority comes to an agreement over salaries. The union wants its workers to receive a pay increase of eight percent, while the government has offered just 3%.

Reyman said the stevedores are working, though only on a limited basis, and it is up to the Ports Authority to decide where they are needed most. "If they want us to

unload the fruit and vegetables, then we will," he said.

Mendi Zaltzman, head of the authority's external affairs division, urged striking workers to come to the negotiating table.

Lloyd's yields seen higher than forecast

LONDON (Reuters) - Lloyd's of London insurance market's investors were seeing an average return of around 11 percent of capacity for the 1996 underwriting year, ahead of analysts' forecasts of between 6.3% and 7.3% for the market as a whole.

By yesterday, a third of Lloyd's syndicates - the underwriting entities that make up the Lloyd's market - had published results for the 1996 underwriting year, accounting for about half of the market's capacity of \$9.9 billion.

Sixty-three syndicates reported total profit of \$525 million, making an average 11% return on capacity of 4.7 billion.

All 167 syndicates underwriting for the 1996 year should publish their results by the end of March. Lloyd's syndicates report on a three-year lag because of their status as an annual venture rather than limited companies.



Limit showed the best return of listed Lloyd's investment vehicles, with a 19.4% profit before expenses of £144.9m. on the 11 syndicates managed by its subsidiaries Bankside and Janson Green. Hiscox Plc, the diversified insur-

er with its roots at Lloyd's, was second with a 17.8% profit of £74m. from its three syndicates. Wellington Underwriting Plc reported a 13.7% profit of £90.8m., and SVB Holdings Plc reported 12.2% profit of £25.8m. Ace Ltd, the Bermudian insurance/reinsurance group which managed 16 syndicates in 1996 - representing more than 10% of Lloyd's total capacity - reported profit after expenses of 7.8%, or £81m. Chaucer Holdings Plc reported 7.7% profit of £16.1m.

So far, the best-performing syndicates by profit percentage before expenses were Wellington's syndicate 1028, reporting 32% profit of £32m., BF Caudle's syndicate 780, with a 31% profit of £16.2m., and Bankside's syndicate 566 with a 25% profit of £32m.

The worst-performing syndicates were Wellington's syndicate 439 with a 22% loss of £19.9m., and Ockham's syndicate 37 with a 6% loss of £7.9m.

Rating agency Moody's had forecast a 7.3% profit for the whole market for 1996, and specialist Lloyd's analyst Chatset had forecast a 6.3% profit.

The Israel Airports Authority **Ben Gurion 2000 Project**

Public Tender No. C4060065
Supply and Installation of Diesel Generators
(Revised Advertisement)

The Israel Airports Authority (IAA) hereby wishes to issue the following revised advertisement for the Pre-Conditions for the Supply and Installation of Diesel Generators for the Ben Gurion 2000 Project.

Preliminary Mandatory Requirements: This list summarizes the Pre-Conditions for an Offeror's Proposal to be considered by the IAA. Only the complete language of the Pre-Conditions as stated in the RFP is binding. This text may be obtained by written request, submitted on company letterhead, to the PMF facsimile number stated below.

- Offeror's minimum annual revenue in each of the last three (3) years (1995-1997) was not less than the equivalent of Three Million U.S. Dollars (\$3 million).
- The Offeror shall have at least five (5) years experience (1992-1997) of supplying and installing Generators during which the Offeror shall have installed at least one (1) 1.2 MW Generator of Medium Voltage.
- Offeror shall attach to its Proposal a certificate issued by the Manufacturer of the Equipment attesting to the Offeror being the Manufacturer's Authorized Agents for that Manufacturer's Equipment in Israel.
- Offeror shall meet the VAT and Israeli Tax Authorities' registration requirements stated in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall provide an unconditional Bank Guarantee in the amount of One Million Two Hundred Thousand New Israeli Shekels (NIS1,200,000), valid for a minimum of ninety (90) days from the Proposal Submission Date, as specified in the RFP, Exhibit E.
- Joint Ventures are allowed to participate in the Tender in accordance with the conditions stated in the RFP, Part B, Section 2 and Exhibit A.
- Offeror, if a foreign entity, shall additionally provide a Commercial Cooperation Undertaking Agreement, as a condition precedent to the execution of a Supply and Installation Agreement with the IAA.

Additional Preliminary Requirements:
Participation in the Tender Process is subject to the Offeror's satisfying all Preliminary Requirements as detailed in the Mandatory Tender Regulations (1993), Clause 6 (a), (1), (2) and (3).

Proposal Documents: Tender Documents may be purchased until the Proposal Submission Date for the non-refundable amount of Thirteen Thousand New Israeli Shekels (13,000 NIS), including VAT. Tender Documents are available from the Project Management Firm (PMF) Project Office located at Ben Gurion International Airport between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00, business days (Sunday through Thursday). Interested Offerors must contact the PMF Contracts Administrator, Mr. Zvi Peretz Cohen, at telephone number: 972-3-977-4456 (Fax number 972-3-971-2956) a minimum of forty (40) hours in advance to arrange Site access. Interested parties may preview the Tender Documents prior to their purchase. For the avoidance of any doubt, Offerors are advised that the Tender is now limited to the Supply and Installation only of Diesel Generators and all requirements for Maintenance have been deleted.

All qualifying Proposals shall be delivered in sealed envelopes/packages not later than 10:00 hours local time on or before 23 March 1999 to the appropriate tender box located in the Archive of the Airports Authority, Main Office, 2nd Floor, Room No. 113, Ben Gurion International Airport, Israel. The revised Pre-Conditions will be issued to all Offerors who have purchased the Tender Documents by an Addendum.

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COMMITTEE FOR TENDERS - THE PURCHASE OF PERMANENT EQUIPMENT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH - JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Two Phase Public Tender (B.F.)

For the Supply of Integrated Modular Automated System for Clinical Chemistry
Tender No. MP/99/14/MZ/67

- You are requested to submit Price Quote Tenders for the supply of Integrated Modular Automated System for Chemical Chemistry, according to the specification in the Tender Pamphlet (the attached supplementary page is an integral part of the Tender Pamphlet).
- Tender Forms may be purchased at the Buildings, Property Stores and Maintenance Department, Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, between 09:00-2:00 pm. The cost of the Tender Form is NIS 350, and is not refundable.
- The following documents must be attached to the Tender Price Quote:
 - Bank guarantee for the equivalent sum of 10% of the price quote value plus VAT. The Bank Guarantee must be linked to the Israeli General Consumer Index, and must be valid for a period of 120 days from the day designated as day of tender submission.
 - A signed External Supplier Guarantee Collaboration Form. Failure to submit the documents specified in Sub-paragraphs a and b above, will result in the disqualification of the Tender Price Quote.

These documents are required according to paragraph 3 (A-B) Basic Entry requirements.

- We will act in accordance with the criteria set out in the attached supplementary pamphlet page.
- Pursuant to Regulation 7 of the Mandatory Tenders Regulations 5754-1994, we reserve the right to negotiate with the participants in the Tender who's Proposals are deemed suitable, prior to the selection of a winner.
- We do not undertake to accept the lowest price quote that received the highest grade pursuant to the "criteria established" or any specific price quote. Likewise we can cancel, expand or reduce the scope of the tender, for budgetary and/or administrative and/or organizational reasons.
- Price quotes must be placed in the Tender Box No. 1, located in Building 64/b no later than 12:00, on 18 April. Price quotes submitted after the specified hour will be rejected.

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Chelsea, Lazio's paths blocked by minnows

PARIS (Reuters) - Holders Chelsea must beware the Egil Olsen factor when they meet Norwegian minnows Valerenga in the quarter-finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup today.

Lazio, UEFA Cup finalists last May, and Chelsea's main rivals as the English side seek to become the first club to retain the trophy, should easily dispose of Panionios of Greece in another David and Goliath tie.

Lokomotiv Moscow, at home to Maccabi Haifa in the first leg, and Real Mallorca, who travel to Croatia to meet Vitez Varadin, are favorites to join them in the semifinals.

Valerenga chief coach Olsen won a reputation as Norway's national trainer for toppling the best, including two successive victories

over Brazil and keeping the likes of England out of the 1994 World Cup finals.

Chelsea, who have disposed of Scandinavian teams in previous rounds, will want a substantial lead in today's home leg to avoid leaving the major part of the job to do in Norway.

But player-coach Gianluca Vialli, whose side are also prime contenders for the premier league title, has yet to decide on his line-up.

Vialli has often appeared in cup matches this season but he is carrying an ankle injury and is expected to field Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo, just back from injury.

French central defender Franck Leboeuf is doubtful with an ankle injury, but Dennis Wise, who is serving a four-match ban in domestic competition, can return in midfield.

Valerenga have the added problem of a lack of match practice as Norway are currently in their off-season. They have been training and playing practice games in southern Spain.

They have a new goalkeeper in Finn Miko Kaven, signed to stand in for long-term injury victim Tore Kroghstad, while midfielder Bjorn Viigren is out with a knee injury.

Lazio's Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson is expected to rest Roberto Mancini and also give former Crystal Palace winger Attilio Lombardo a match in place of Portuguese midfielder Sergio Conceicao.

The most welcome European return for Lazio will be Italy central defender Alessandro Nesta, who has not played an international match since he tore knee ligaments during the

World Cup finals.

Lazio's brilliant strike force of Christian Vieri and Chilean Marcelo Salas should be much too strong for the modest Greek side, who are expected to attack from the start knowing they have nothing to lose.

Mallorca, the surprise team in Spain in 1998, go into their match in Croatia with a weakness on the left of midfield where Jovan Stankovic is suspended and new signing Hector Pineda ineligible.

They can count on extra motivation from Stankovic's fellow Serbian midfielder Veljko Paunovic.

Vareks club president Andjelko Herjavec called the match "the most important sporting event in Varazdin's history".

Crystal Palace call in administrators

LONDON (Reuters) - English first division Crystal Palace put themselves into the hands of administrators yesterday in an attempt to secure the club's financial future.

The board of directors said in a statement "that having regard to the present financial position of the company, the board are seeking to reorganize its finances and, to that end, will instruct professional advisers with a view to entering into a deed of administration so as to secure the long-term future of the club."

Chairman Mark Goldberg, who bought the club for \$49.5 million in February 1998, said: "The present position is one common to a number of other clubs that have gone into administration. To date all those clubs have come through fitter and healthier and more efficient."

Twose, Astle battle to earn Kiwis a draw on 'sticky' wicket

AUCKLAND (Reuters) - Roger Twose and Nathan Astle led New Zealand to a draw on the final day of the first Test against South Africa at Eden Park yesterday.

Both men scored stubborn half centuries as the home side finished on 244 for three wickets.

Needing 269 to make South Africa bat again, New Zealand resumed on the final morning at four without loss. With Twose (65) batting four hours and Astle (69 not out) nearly three hours, the home side lost just three wickets all day, one in each session.

Twose refused to play a shot in anger against any of the South African bowlers apart from spinner Paul Adams whom he hit for four fours and four sixes. Adams, striving desperately to spin the ball, bowled

at least one full toss and long hop per over.

There was a surreal atmosphere for much of the day with Jacques Kallis, normally a frontline seamer, resorting to two overs of hopeless, lobbed leg spinners just before lunch and Jonty Rhodes twice clambering up a Jonty metre wall to retrieve the ball from the under-construction north stand.

"I don't want to take anything away from the batsmen, because both sides battled really, really well. But a wicket like this doesn't do the game any favours, does it?" asked SA coach Bob Woolmer after the match.

The pitch was criticized for much of the Test after being controversially held together by a covering of wood glue. Eden Park groundstaff,

worried that the surface might crumble because of a lack of grass, resorted to the glue option but unwittingly killed the game as a spectacle.

"Basically it amounted to an artificial wicket and that just won't do for Test cricket," admitted New Zealand's greatest all rounder, Sir Richard Hadlee, who was commenting on the game.

For batting heroes Daryl Cullinan and Geoff Allott, though, the Test will be remembered for the rest of their lives.

Cullinan broke his country's Test individual scoring record with an unbeaten 275 in South Africa's 621-5, while Allott's record went from the sublime to the ridiculous; the game duck in the history of the

Sampras, Agassi win in Scottsdale

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (Reuters) - World No. 1 Pete Sampras, rested but rusty, got through his opening match in straight sets at the Franklin Templeton Tennis Classic on Tuesday night.

Sampras found his rhythm in the second set to post a 7-6 6-2 victory over pesky Ramon Delgado of Paraguay.

"I got off to a very slow start," said the top seed, who belted 11 aces in the 77-minute match.

Third seed and defending champion Andre Agassi struggled in his first-round match with Brazilian Fernando Meligeni but managed to pull out a 3-6 7-5 6-3 win.

There was one upset when Australian left-hander Mark Woodford took out fifth-seeded German Tommy Haas 6-3 5-7 6-2.

SPORTS

The local scene

Swimmers to defy Katyushas

Despite parental attempts to change the venue, the winter swimming championships opened yesterday at Kibbutz Hagoshrim in the Upper Galilee.

All the top swimmers, Eytan Orbach, Yoav Bruck and Mickey Halika, will be using the event to hone their skills before the world short-course championships in Hong Kong at the end of this month.

The finals begin today. Last weekend at a meet at Wingate Institute, 17-year-old Dana Eden set a new record in the 400 meters individual medley. Eden's time of 4:56:12, which bettered Adi Bichman's previous record of 4:56:50, means Eden will compete at the European Championships in Istanbul this August.

Israel rugby squad prepares for opposition

The national rugby team forgot their club loyalties this past weekend as 32 players attended another training camp at Pardes Hanna to prepare for their upcoming international season which begins next month.

The local league resumes this Saturday with Rishon-LeZion hosting Ra'anana, Kibbutz Tzora taking on ASA Technion and ASA Tel Aviv meeting Beersheba.

Caesarea golf

A difference of two strokes saw Jules Polak and Hanan Eshed earn victory in the better ball strokeplay competition at Caesarea Golf Club last weekend.

Two teams ended on identical 64 net scores but Polak and Eshed's back nine score of 31 was better than the 33 from Jules Cubumeh and Elias Elias.

Elias, with his nine under par 64, captured the day's individual honors. On 68 strokes were Yochanan Hoffman and Fanny Steinfeld.

Compiled by Heather Chait

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Knicks need Sprewell

MIAMI — Every year around this time, the overstressed and overworked migrate here by the thousands to seek relief in the warmth.

MY CALL

By SHAUN POWELL

The NBA equivalent of the typically tired tourist is the New York Knicks, but there was no rest for the weary Tuesday night. They played for the fifth time in six days, including three straight games overall. They found their back-to-back-to-backs against the wall. The Knicks dragged their bodies into Miami Arena, not far removed from an all-night flight from New York that left them drowsy. Welcome to lockout season basketball. Awaiting the Knicks like a leopard crouching in the weeds was a rejuvenated Heat team. Pat Riley's runs have recovered from a rash of injuries and suddenly they're sharing the view in the Atlantic Division with the Knicks and Magic. This wasn't a day at South Beach.

And yet, hours before the game which the Heat won in overtime 85-84, the most restless and refreshed person in the building was a Knick. Latrell Sprewell caught what seemed to be a million passes from assistant coach Tom Thibodeau and tried to make up for lost time. He took jumpers, tried some moves and mostly planted his right heel, which never felt better.

Arguably the most inactive NBA player of the last two years, Sprewell was the only Knick who would've embraced a brutal schedule.

"No one wants to play more than I do right now," Sprewell said after the workout. His first practice since a crack appeared in his right heel almost a month ago will be today. He'll suit up soon, maybe as early as tomorrow when the Knicks visit his hometown of Milwaukee. And then the Knicks will be presented with what might be their most important task all year: absorbing Sprewell into the mix and making it all work.

Their playoff fate depends on it. Initially, the plan is to bring Sprewell back slowly, give him a light workload, bring him off the bench, then take it from there. Ultimately, Sprewell must find his way back to where his minutes and importance are equal with anyone's.

As you watch the Knicks enjoy a productive stretch without Sprewell, it's easy to underestimate his value to the team. As you might have noticed, the Knicks have done about as well

as expected while missing a 20-point scorer.

Charlie Ward sometimes convinces you that, just maybe, he is more than a backup point guard pressed into a starter's position. Kurt Thomas and Marcus Camby are giving the Knicks a look they didn't have with Charles Oakley. Allan Houston remains this team's best outside scoring threat. Patrick Ewing is still the team's best player. And the biggest surprise of all is Chris Childs, the NBA's three-point percentage leader who seems reborn as a sixth man.

That's all good. But this is a lineup that, as well as it works in an abbreviated regular season, will keep the Knicks from going very far in the playoffs. They still need Sprewell. They still need Sprewell.

It amuses coach Jeff Van Gundy whenever he hears otherwise, which is more often than you'd think. Word came before Tuesday's game that Riley thought the Knicks without Sprewell was a blessing in disguise.

"For some reason, people say that we're better without him," Van Gundy said in disbelief. "I find that very interesting. Another team can lose one of their best players and it's a problem. Then when we have a guy out, it's an advantage. Interesting."

At best, it's faulty reasoning. Sprewell offers the Knicks a slashing alternative to Houston and will allow Van Gundy to use a taller backcourt that'll come in handy should the Orlando Magic see the Magic's Penny Hardaway and Nick Anderson in May.

Most of all, he will reduce the reliance on Ewing and give the Knicks another option to choose in the closing seconds of a tight playoff game.

Any thought of rationing Sprewell's minutes and his role, just because the Knicks have hummed along without him, is interesting. To steal a Van Gundy-ism.

The trick is to find the right formula. What couldn't be accomplished in a shortened training camp or in the season's opening month must be done ASAP. That's the only disadvantage of Sprewell's return.

"He didn't have a good feel for us before he was injured," Van Gundy said. "Because of this schedule, and because there's no practice time, it makes it hard. You'll have to do it in the games." (Newsday)

Ewing miss hands Heat OT win



MIAMI (AP) — Alonzo Mourning scored 28 points and Patrick Ewing missed a 14-footer as time ran out on the Knicks who suffered an overtime loss to the Miami Heat 85-84 Tuesday. Ewing had a season-high 31 points and 16 rebounds. But

he also missed two shots and committed a turnover in the final two minutes in regulation, then missed a potential game-winning jumper over P.J. Brown.

The Heat have won nine of their last 10 games.

There were 17 lead changes, including five in overtime. Terry Porter scored Miami's last four points, including two free throws with 55 seconds left for the game's final points.

Tim Hardaway, who returned after missing one game because of a hyper-extended knee, had 17 points for the Heat. Larry Johnson scored 19 for New York.

Wizards 99, Hawks 77

Washington ended a four-game losing streak as Mitch Richmond scored 28 points to lead hot-shooting Washington to a road victory.

Pacers 88, Nuggets 81

Reggie Miller scored eight of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and host Indiana held Denver without a field goal for more than seven minutes in the period.

Cavaliers 116, Celtics 99

Shawn Kemp scored 22 points and Bob Sura added a season-high 19 as host Cleveland broke the 100-point mark for the first time this season.

Bucks 94, Nets 86

Glenn Robinson scored eight of his 18 points in the final 2:49 as visiting Milwaukee scored 11 of the last 13 points.

Timberwolves 89, Warriors 78

Staring at a possible four-game losing streak, host Minnesota rallied from an eight-point fourth-quarter deficit.

Mavericks 112, Clippers 99

Michael Finley scored 20 points and A.C. Green had 19 points and 12 rebounds, both season highs, as host Dallas kept the Clippers winless.

Pistons 108, Bulls 78

Visiting Pistons handed the Bulls their worst loss ever at the United Center. The previous low was an 18-point loss to Philadelphia last week.

Before this season, the Bulls (4-11) hadn't lost by more than 14 at home. And that 77-63 loss to Cleveland came in 1994-95, when Michael Jordan was retired.

It was Detroit's first victory in Chicago since March 1990. Joe Dumars is the only Piston still left from the 1990 squad, which won a second-straight NBA title.



CENTERS OF ATTENTION — Miami Heat center Alonzo Mourning (1) attempts to drive past Knicks center Patrick Ewing during first-period action.

former Rockets guard Mario Elie, who hit 15 first-half points, but sat out the second half with a strained left hamstring.

Kings 111, Grizzlies 101

Chris Webber scored 36 points and pulled down 17 rebounds as visiting Sacramento handed

Vancouver its fourth straight loss.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim, the NBA's No. 4 scorer, led the Grizzlies with 29 points and 12 rebounds.

Blazers 102, Jazz 100 (OT)

Rasheed Wallace scored 22 points and sank two free throws

with 17 seconds left in the second overtime to ice the win for host Portland.

Portland prevailed in the matchup of the teams with the two best records in the NBA, improving to 6-0 at home and 10-3 overall. The Jazz dropped to 11-3, their only losses coming on the road.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	11	4	.731	—
Miami	10	4	.714	X
Philadelphia	9	5	.643	1 1/2
New York	9	6	.600	2
Boston	6	7	.462	4
Washington	5	8	.385	5
New Jersey	3	11	.214	7 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	10	4	.714	—
Detroit	9	6	.600	1 1/2
Minnesota	7	5	.583	2
Atlanta	8	7	.533	2 1/2
Cleveland	6	7	.462	3 1/2
Kansas	4	9	.308	5 1/2
Chicago	4	11	.267	6 1/2
Charlotte	3	9	.250	6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	11	3	.786	—
Minnesota	9	5	.643	2
San Antonio	7	8	.467	4 1/2
Dallas	6	10	.375	6
Denver	5	10	.333	6 1/2
Vancouver	4	10	.286	7

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	10	3	.769	—
Seattle	9	4	.692	1 1/2
L.A. Lakers	10	6	.625	1 1/2
Phoenix	8	6	.571	2 1/2
Sacramento	7	8	.467	4
Golden State	6	8	.429	4 1/2

Due to technical difficulties, not all box scores were available.

Caps strike Lightning; Bruins add to win streak

MIAMI (AP) — Peter Bondra scored twice, including once during a five-goal first-period Tuesday night, as the Washington Capitals hammered the Tampa Bay Lightning 8-2.

Bondra, who also had an assist, has 29 goals in 29 games against Tampa Bay, including six goals and two assists in the last two games against the Lightning.

Canadiens 4 Flyers 1

Third-period goals by Shayne Corson, Jonas Hoglund and

tripped.

Senators 4, Islanders 2

Daniel Alfredsson's tip-in goal with nine minutes left in regulation capped a three-goal rally as Ottawa won on the road.

Alfredsson redirected Lance Pitlick's slap shot for Ottawa's sixth win in their last eight games.

Rangers 2, Stars 2

Mike Richter made 28 saves as host New York tied Dallas to

remain unbeaten in three games since losing Wayne Gretzky with a neck injury.

The Stars had their seven-game road winning streak stopped, but continued their unbeaten road streak to nine (7-0-2).

Blues 5, Predators 1

Kelly Chase, known more for his fighting than his scoring, got two goals in a 33-second span to lead St. Louis to a record sixth straight road victory.

Bay 12-7-25. Goals: Washington, Kolton Tomas; Bay, Vladimir, Scott, Wilkerson, A-8,035 (18,765).

Ottawa 2-0-4

First Period: 1, New York, Stankovic 11, 12:36 2.

New York, Lawrence 9 (Patrick, Richter), 14:54 (Lalorin, Modano), 16:25. Second Period: 3, Dallas, Newsworthy 14 (Chambers, 3:54, 4:17, 4:24, 4:31, 4:38, 4:44, 4:51, 4:58, 5:05, 5:12, 5:19, 5:26, 5:33, 5:40, 5:47, 5:54, 6:01, 6:08, 6:15, 6:22, 6:29, 6:36, 6:43, 6:50, 6:57, 7:04, 7:11, 7:18, 7:25, 7:32, 7:39, 7:46, 7:53, 8:00, 8:07, 8:14, 8:21, 8:28, 8:35, 8:42, 8:49, 8:56, 9:03, 9:10, 9:17, 9:24, 9:31, 9:38, 9:45, 9:52, 9:59, 10:06, 10:13, 10:20, 10:27, 10:34, 10:41, 10:48, 10:55, 11:02, 11:09, 11:16, 11:23, 11:30, 11:37, 11:44, 11:51, 11:58, 12:05, 12:12, 12:19, 12:26, 12:33, 12:40, 12:47, 12:54, 13:01, 13:08, 13:15, 13:22, 13:29, 13:36, 13:43, 13:50, 13:57, 14:04, 14:11, 14:18, 14:25, 14:32, 14:39, 14:46, 14:53, 15:00, 15:07, 15:14, 15:21, 15:28, 15:35, 15:42, 15:49, 15:56, 16:03, 16:10, 16:17, 16:24, 16:31, 16:38, 16:45, 16:52, 16:59, 17:06, 17:13, 17:20, 17:27, 17:34, 17:41, 17:48, 17:55, 18:02, 18:09, 18:16, 18:23, 18:30, 18:37, 18:44, 18:51, 18:58, 19:05, 19:12, 19:19, 19:26, 19:33, 19:40, 19:47, 19:54, 20:01, 20:08, 20:15, 20:22, 20:29, 20:36, 20:43, 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St. Louis 1

Showdown in Miami



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Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

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ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	Thursday
Ariel	17/62 35/70	19/66 74/46
Beersheba	18/64 36/70	19/66 74/46
Dead Sea	23/73 105/50	25/77 125/38
Eilat	24/75 94/85	25/77 125/38
Haifa	17/62 35/70	19/66 74/46
Jerusalem	15/59 54/100	15/59 74/46
Katmon	14/57 53/90	17/62 43/85
Netanya	17/62 35/70	19/66 74/46
Tel Aviv	17/62 35/70	19/66 74/46
Tiberias	19/66 74/46	20/73 94/85

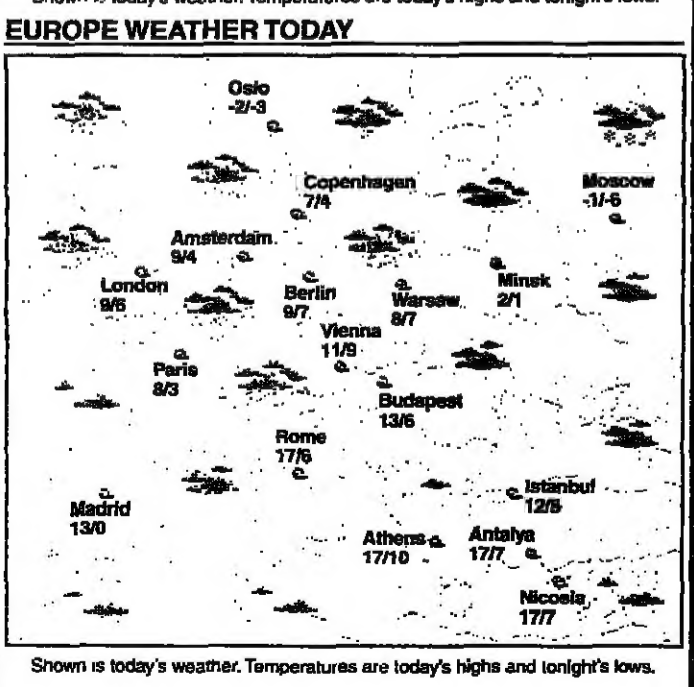
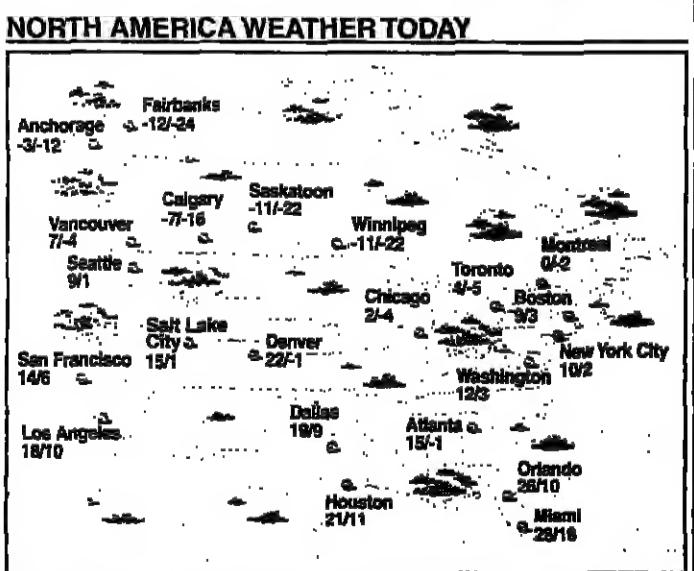
INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thursday
Amsterdam	9/48 43/58	9/43 35/71
Beijing	22/71 115/50	22/71 104/30
Berlin	9/48 43/58	9/43 35/71
Buenos Aires	9/48 43/58	9/43 35/71
Calcutta	22/71 115/50	22/71 104/30
Chicago	2/35 42/50	3/37 32/72
Frankfurt	9/48 43/58	9/43 35/71
Hong Kong	22/71 115/50	22/71 104/30
Los Angeles	18/64 36/70	19/66 74/46
London	9/48 43/58	9/43 35/71
Madrid	13/55 53/90	14/57 53/90
Mexico City	24/75 94/85	25/77 125/38
Montreal	0/32 32/72	0/32 32/72
Moscow	13/55 53/90	14/57 53/90
New York	10/50 23/51	7/44 0/32
Paris	9/48 43/58	9/43 35/71
Prague	10/50 23/51	13/55 53/90
Rio de Janeiro	27/80 24/75	28/84 22/73
Rome	17/62 35/70	19/66 74/46
Sydney	25/77 125/38	27/80 22/73
Tokyo	11/53 54/85	12/53 74/46
Toronto	4/38 32/72	0/32 32/72
Vancouver	8/46 24/48	9/48 24/48
Washington	12/53 35/71	9/48 24/48
Zurich	9/48 43/58	7/44 0/32

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, th-thunderstorms, r-rain, a-snow, fl-fog, m-mist, an-snow flurries.

MOON PHASES

Full	Last	New	First
Mar 2	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24



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EL AL TIME
Weekends

Yorke leads United over Inter 2-0

Bayern Munich also win 2-0; Juventus win 2-1; European Cup holders Real Madrid held 1-1 by Dynamo Kiev

By MITCH PHILLIPS

LONDON (Reuters) - Bayern Munich and Manchester United notched up 2-0 home wins against Kaiserslautern and Inter Milan respectively in their European Cup quarter-final first leg ties last night.

But reigning champions Real Madrid had to come from behind to force a 1-1 home draw with Dynamo Kiev while Juventus, bidding to make their fourth successive final, conceded an injury-time goal as they edged Greek outsiders Olympiakos Piraeus 2-1 in Turin.

United's game against Inter was the most glamorous tie of the round - even without the injured absentee Ronaldo - and it got off to a flying start when Dwight Yorke was left unmarked to head home a David Beckham cross after six minutes.

Inter Keeper Gianluca Pagliuca made a brilliant reaction save with his foot to deny Andy Cole but could do nothing about Yorke's second, a carbon copy of the first in first half injury time.

United, full of attacking verve, created and wasted several more clear chances. Ryan Giggs the worst offender when he put a header wide from point-blank range as Inter's defence looked in disarray.

But the Italians recovered and went close themselves when only a superb stop by Peter Schmeichel prevented Ivan Zamorano's header finding the net.

Diego Simeone also had a goal disallowed for a push by one of his team mates and Schmeichel then twice denied substitute Nicola Ventola with his foot.



Manchester United's David Beckham (left) and double goal-scorer Dwight Yorke (19) celebrate with Andy Cole (behind) and Ryan Giggs (right) after Yorke scored United's second goal against Inter Milan at Old Trafford last night.

In the last minute Henning Berg cleared a Francesco Colonnese shot off the line to prevent the Italians claiming a vital away goal.

The clash between the German champions Kaiserslautern and current runaway leaders Bayern took an early turn in favour of the Bavarians.

Brazilian striker Elber put them ahead after half an hour and Stefan Effenberg got a second four minutes later.

Kaiserslautern, who managed

only one shot on target all night, settled after that but had to defend stoutly in the last 20 minutes after Egyptian defender Hany Ramzy was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Dynamo Kiev looked the form team in the Champions' League stage but there was always a question over how they would perform after their long lay-off.

They delivered their answer after 54 minutes when striker Andriy Shevchenko scored on the counter to stun the Bernabeu

Stadium.

Madrid, who had missed a host of first half chances, equalized with a stunning free kick from Yugoslav striker Predrag Mijatovic, the man who scored the winner in last year's final.

Juventus, as they did last year, squeezed into the quarter-finals and like last year will have to find a top away performance if they are to reach the semifinals.

Last season they drew 1-1 at home with Kiev and then won the return 4-1 in Ukraine but

they must have thought they would have it easier this time as they chalked up a 2-0 lead.

Filippo Inzaghi, with a spectacular volley in the 38th minute and Antonio Conte in the 79th had them in control against the Greek visitors.

But, with six minutes of injury time played, goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi pulled down Alexios Alexandris in the penalty area and 88th-minute substitute Andreas Niniadis converted the penalty.

Mac. TA must beat Kinder to force decider

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Maccabi Tel Aviv will try again tonight to defeat defending European champions Kinder Bologna.

A win at Yad Elihu (Channel 1, 8:35 p.m.) forces the third and deciding game next Thursday in Bologna, while a loss ends Maccabi's European season for the third straight year at the Final 16 stage.

Tel Aviv will need a dramatic turnaround from its dismal performance in Bologna on Tuesday in order to defeat Kinder. The Italians easily won Game 1 by a score of 78-57, using its stifling defense to hold Maccabi to only 39.6 percent from the field, while burning the nets itself with 60.5% shooting.

Maccabi actually held its own in rebounding against the Bologna big men and turned the ball over less than Kinder, but the Israeli defense was no match for the patient and disciplined Italians, who looked every bit the champions in executing their multifaceted offense both in the paint and from outside.

Maccabi's offense was continually stymied by Bologna, as Tel Aviv was totally ineffective in creating good shots, and each trip down the court turned into an ordeal.

With the exception of Victor Alexander—who scored 18 points on 7-of-12 shooting—Maccabi was non-existent. Oded Katash had a particularly dismal night, scoring 6

points on 2-of-10 shooting while playing only 22 minutes.

Although Maccabi has a six-game home winning streak in the EuroLeague, defeating its opponents by an average margin of 24 points, none of those victories came against a team with above a .500 record.

Tel Aviv lost both its home games this season to qualify clubs (Panathinaikos and Efes Pilsen) and has not beaten Kinder at Yad Elihu in three attempts this decade.

With Tuesday night's defeat, Maccabi has now lost eight straight times overall to Kinder—the last victory coming in 1985 at Yad Elihu.

In other Final 16 action tonight, two clubs have the chance to wrap up the series on their home court—Real Madrid in Spain against Fenerbahce and Teanysystem Bologna in Italy against Panathinaikos, which went 15-1 during final pool play but lost the home-court advantage with a 63-58 defeat in Game 1 at Athens.

In another matter yesterday, the Israel Basketball Association ruled that the State Cup final between Maccabi Tel Aviv and Hapoel Jerusalem on March 18 will be played at Yad Elihu after all.

Jerusalem had claimed that Maccabi held an unfair advantage because Yad Elihu is their home court, but the IBA said that this season's final would not be moved and that it would try to look for a solution in the future. Jerusalem has threatened to boycott the final.

Maccabi Haifa need to stop Moscow train in its tracks

By OFER ROMEN-ABELS

Maccabi Haifa are set to play the most important game in the club's history tonight when they face Russia's Lokomotiv Moscow in the first leg of the quarter finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup (kick-off 7:00 p.m. live on Channel 5).

The delegation of 40 which arrived in the Russian capital on Tuesday morning were immediately greeted by the severe winter conditions. The weather became an important factor in Haifa's preparations for the game. Moscow is currently covered by a thick layer of snow and training facilities are limited. This has forced Haifa to train at Spartak's indoor ground.

The swift change from a mild Israeli winter to temperatures which will drop below freezing tonight, forced the Haifaites to gear up in advance and purchase thermal clothing at a cost of NIS 30,000.

Apart from the weather, Maccabi suffered a few blows recently which certainly haven't helped coach Dusan Uhrin to prepare his side for the tie. Just before the end of the mid-season break, Alon Mizrahi who was Haifa's top scorer in Europe with 15 goals to his name and a goal in every round in Europe this season, left the club to join French second division side Nice.

Ronen Harazi and Viktor Pachka,

who were brought in as replacements from Turkish side Bursaspor and Hapoel Jerusalem respectively are still struggling to fit into Mizrahi's big shoes.

Following Mizrahi's departure came another incident which couldn't have come at a worse time. Last month second-choice goalkeeper Yehuda Buaron was seriously injured in a car accident which left him comatose and with very grim prospects of making a full recovery.

Uhrin, didn't manage to stabilize Haifa's line up especially after the signing of Polish skipper Jerzy Brzezek in midfield. Since then Maccabi lost their local derby to city rivals Hapoel and won only four points in five league games, effectively killing off their chances of winning the title.

Uhrin was quoted in the Hebrew press as saying that the arrival of three new players in his side at such a crucial stage didn't help, but from now on the team will have to make do with what they have got. He also tried to watch Lokomotiv on a few occasions but the fact that a Russian league season ended three months ago prevented the former Czech Republic coach from observing the Russians in competitive matches.

On one occasion, a friendly game in Germany was called off due to bad weather and then, Uhrin's counterpart, Yuri Siomin proved his shrewdness when he tried to fool Uhrin.

Siomin fielded a weakened side in a friendly last week knowing that Uhrin was watching.

Lokomotiv, who until now have been the fifth biggest club in Moscow after Spartak, Dynamo, CSKA and Torpedo are quickly becoming the most successful as far as achievements in Europe are concerned.

They are the only Russian side left in any of the European cup competitions. Lokomotiv, who, not surprisingly, are sponsored by Russian railways have a very successful record in recent years.

The Russians reached this stage of the tournament last year surprising everyone after beating AEK Athens

2-1 in Moscow and earning a goal-less draw in Greece. They were then knocked out in the semi-finals by German side VfB Stuttgart.

Lokomotiv held a training camp in Israel prior to that semi-final last year, beating Maccabi Haifa 3-1 in a practice game.

Lokomotiv play a fast and physical game and are favorites for the tie, but still show respect to the Israeli side which beat Paris Saint Germain earlier in the tournament.

Lokomotiv have their own problems too. Goalkeeper Ruslan Nigmatulin is still recovering from an injury sustained in training earlier this year and there have been reported bust-ups between Georgian striker Zaza Janashia and the new signing, playmaker Alexei Smerin.

Up front alongside Janashia, plays Dmitri Bulitkin who has scored a goal in each of the friendlies as well as two goals in the game against Portugal's Sporting Braga in the previous round.

Haifa will miss Ophir Koppel who was sent off against SV Reid in the previous round as well as Eliran Elkayam, who is sidelined with a long-term injury. Both players traveled with the team to Moscow and will give their vocal support alongside 400 supporters who have also made the journey.

Uhrin is yet to announce his starting lineup and must decide between a formation which will include three center backs or two players up front.

The return to form of the controversial Bosnian Ibrahim Duro can win him a place in the starting line up ahead of Harazi or Pachka.

Despite suffering from a bruised ankle against Kfar Sava, Yossi Benayoun looks certain to keep his place, as an away goal is top of Uhrin's priority list.

Haim Silvas has fully recovered from a knee operation and the good form of young Guy Melamed are also an important boost for Uhrin, who will rely on the experience of skipper Arik Benado and Alon Harazi to lead the side by example. Harazi is the only member of the team which played in Moscow and lost to Torpedo 1-0, but beat them 3-1 in Haifa in the same tournament in 1993-94.

Basketball referee killed in car accident

International basketball referee Asa Kammer was killed in a car accident in Ra'anana on Tuesday. According to the Israel Basketball Association, he was hit by a vehicle which failed to observe a red light at Ra'anana Junction at about 9 p.m. on Tuesday night.

Kammer, who was 42, began his refereeing career in 1978 and became an international official in 1984. He is survived by his wife and two children. The funeral will take place in Ra'anana today at 3 p.m.

Alaska Airlines Contest

And Today's Winner of the Steimatzky Prize is

Nancy Peled, Kibbutz Hazorea